



No. 66,396

TUESDAY DECEMBER 29 1998

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EVERY WEEKDAY

US jets blast Iraqi missile base

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

AMERICAN fighter aircraft responded rapidly and in force yesterday when they came under missile attack in the no-fly zone of northern Iraq, an episode that renewed tensions nine days after the end of Operation Desert Fox.

President Saddam Hussein's regime had threatened on Saturday to fire on British and American planes patrolling the northern and southern no-fly zones - and he soon kept his word.

At about 1.30pm local time, at least three surface-to-air missiles were fired at American F-16s from a site north of the town of Mosul, Pentagon officials said.

The pilots saw puffs of smoke and swiftly opened fire.

communications from Baghdad claimed that the American aircraft fired first, killing four soldiers and wounding seven, and only then did the Iraqis retaliate. "Many hostile formations violated Iraqi airspace coming from Turkey," the communiqué said.

President Clinton, announcing the attack, said the American pilots took appropriate action after coming under fire from the Iraqi missile battery. "Our pilots have the authority to protect themselves if they are threatened or attacked," he said. The no-fly zones would remain, an important part of America's containment policy towards Iraq, he said, adding: "Because we effectively control the skies over much of Iraq, Saddam has been unable to use air power to repress his own people or to lash out again at his neighbours."

Mr Clinton spoke almost without emotion and there was no sense of crisis in Washington to indicate that a larger response was being planned.

The President's comments were a careful, word-for-word repetition of the Administration's policy on the no-fly zones which stretch from the suburbs of Baghdad to the Kuwait border in the south and cover the area above the 36th parallel in the north. The southern zone was established after the Gulf War to protect Shia Muslims from attacks by Saddam's forces and the northern zone is to protect Kurds who oppose him.

These encroachments on Iraq's territorial integrity and sovereignty have not been authorised by the Security Council but there have been few protests at the UN. For Iraq, however, they have always been an irritant and Baghdad has been cranking up its rhetoric about them since the end of Operation Desert Fox.

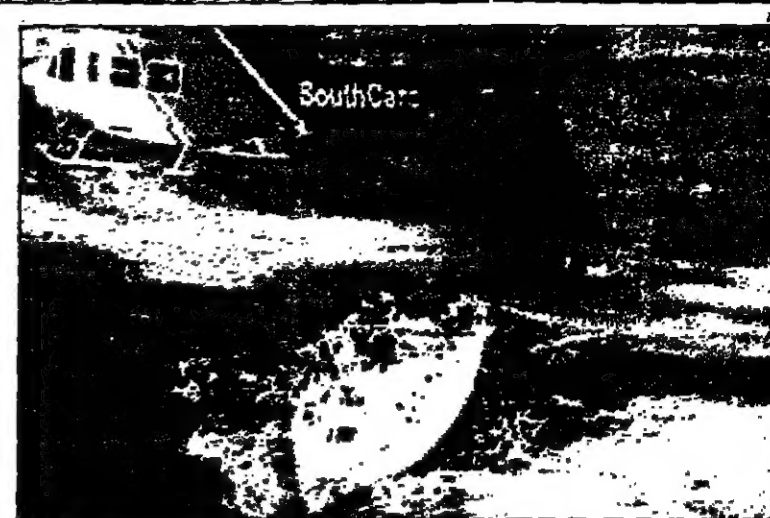
Washington officials suspect that Saddam has decided that firing on the patrolling aircraft is his way of drawing attention to them at a time when the rest of the world may have forgotten them. The attacks also appear to be part of Iraq's bid for sympathy from other nations to get sanctions lifted.

□ Scott Ritter, an American who resigned as a UN weapons inspector in Iraq last August, has accused the chief inspector Richard Butler of manipulating events to provoke American military action against Saddam, and called for him to stand down.

Letters, page 17



Richard Winning, skipper of the smoken yacht Winston Churchill, being brought ashore yesterday



A helicopter plucks a crewman from the sea in the Bass Strait yesterday

Search for British sailor abandoned

BY JOANNA BALE AND EDWARD GORMAN

THE British Olympic sailor feared drowned after going overboard during the Sydney to Hobart yacht race had cancelled plans to spend Christmas with his family so that he could compete, his mother said yesterday.

Margaret Charles said that her son, Glyn, had postponed a trip home to Hampshire at the last minute after being offered a chance to take part in the gruelling 630-mile race off Australia's east coast.

Rescuers called off the search for Mr Charles yesterday more than 24 hours after he was swept from the Australian yacht *Sword of Orion* by huge waves near the New South Wales coast.

Two other yachtsmen died and three more are missing after 80mph gales brought the highest death toll in the 54-year history of the race, which was still under way last night.

The other missing men are all crew members of the Australian sloop the *Winston Churchill*, which sailed in the inaugural 1944 race. They had clung to a liferaft for 20 hours before being swept out to sea as rescuers searched for them. Two other crew members were winched to safety from the raft when it was found yesterday.

A spokesman for the Australian Maritime Safety Authority said: "The search for Glyn Charles has been called off and his family have been notified of that decision. The area was searched thoroughly and there was simply no point in carrying on."

Mr Charles, 33, from Emsworth,

Hampshire, was an experienced sailor who had taken part in four Admirals' Cup events. He had competed in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics and in the 1996 Atlanta Games he finished eleventh in the Star Class event with his partner, George Skudnas. He had been planning his campaign to join the British Olympic team for the 2000 Games in Sydney.

Mr Charles had begun the race from

"If we start to ban difficult races, or cancel them at the whim of a bad weather forecast, we are ensuring that the quality of seamanship will fall"

— Sir Robin Knox-Johnston, page 16

Sydney Harbour along with 115 other yachts on Boxing Day, but had run into bad weather in the infamous Bass Strait between Tasmania and the mainland early on Sunday morning.

He was swept overboard after the *Sword of Orion* lost her mast and capsized, flinging other crew members into the sea. A rescue helicopter winched the crew to safety, but Mr

Continued on page 3, col 1

Solicitors 'milking legal aid over asylum advice'

BY FRANCES GIBBS AND RICHARD FORD

SEVENTY-SIX firms of solicitors are under investigation amid suspicion that the legal aid fund is being milked by unscrupulous lawyers offering immigration and asylum advice.

The unprecedented Legal Aid Board crackdown comes after the discovery of a rise of several million pounds a year in the legal aid bill for such advice. For the year ending in April it was £35 million, up from £28 million the previous year, and the bill is predicted to be £49 million for the current financial year.

The board has sent letters to the law firms - all in the London area and specialising mainly in immigration work. They have been targeted because their legal aid claims have risen dramatically.

Board officials have demanded details of their work and an explanation for the

increase in claims. If the firms fail to provide satisfactory explanations, they will face a further investigation and could have their bills cut.

Steve Orchard, chief executive, said the board had been tracking figures to see if a pattern emerged. "These figures are a matter of some concern to us. There is no evidence of outright fraud but there is evidence of a lot of poor-quality work and of unnecessary work."

He said that many of those seeking immigration and asylum advice were "among the most vulnerable", adding: "There is no doubt they need legal advice and it is important that they obtain proper advice. We believe that some firms may be using the scheme as a means of making money for themselves rather than helping their clients."

The investigation comes as

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, has backed down over a plan to force solicitors to be covered by a new statutory regulation scheme for immigration advisers. A fierce battle between the Home Office and the Lord Chancellor's Department has ended with a compromise: solicitors offering such advice will be covered only by a code of practice.

But hundreds of non-legally qualified advisers are to be forced to join a state-run registration system as part of the Home Office attempt to weed out incompetent and unscrupulous people preying on ethnic minority communities.

The compromise represents a victory for Lord Irvine of Lairg and the Law Society, both having strongly opposed the inclusion of solicitors. If problems continue, however, Mr Straw will force solicitors to register for a licence too.

12 Britons seized in Yemen

BY JOANNA BALE

TWELVE Britons were among 16 Western tourists kidnapped by tribesmen in southern Yemen yesterday.

The tourists, who included two Americans and two Australians, were seized when their convoy of five four-wheel-drive vehicles was stopped at a roadblock between Habban and Aden in the province of Abyan. A Yemeni guide and a Briton escaped and reported the incident.

The hostages were driven 250 miles south of Sanaa, the capital, in one of the largest single kidnappings in Yemen.

Tribesmen in Yemen often kidnap foreigners to press the Government and oil companies to meet demands such as improving infrastructure in tribal areas. More than 100 foreigners have been abducted since 1992, but most have been released unharmed.

Koestler bust is banished from campus

BY GILLIAN HARRIS
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A BRONZE bust dedicated to the writer and philosopher Arthur Koestler has been removed from the foyer of Edinburgh University after female students complained that it made them feel uneasy when they learnt that he had a history of sexually abusing women.

The bust, erected more than a decade ago to commemorate one of the university's most famous benefactors, is being stored in an undisclosed location after women threatened to deface it.

Students demanded its removal when a biography by Professor David Cesarani claimed that Koestler beat and raped sev-

eral women, including Jill Craigie, wife of the former Labour leader, Michael Foot.

The university said yesterday that the bust had been taken away for security reasons. The students' union said: "There was a feeling he should not be there. One day it just vanished from the foyer."

Arthur Koestler, who died in 1982 aged 77 in a suicide pact with his wife, left money in his will to set up a chair of parapsychology at a British university to investigate the paranormal. Edinburgh University won the award and established the only institute of its kind in Britain.

Until details of his private life emerged, Koestler enjoyed an unblemished reputation as an intellectual writer. He studied science and psychology in Vienna before

becoming a foreign correspondent in the Middle East and Spain. His novels included *Darkness At Noon* and *The Thirteenth Tribe*.

However, Mr Cesarani's book uncovered a darker side to his character which shows that he drank heavily and was violent towards women. Some of his victims, including Ms Craigie, spoke of being attacked by Koestler and claimed that rape was "almost a hallmark of his conduct".

Laura Aiken of Scottish Women's Aid welcomed the removal of the bust from the university. "This is a man known to be sexually abusive and violent towards women but the message was being put out that it was OK to glorify him in the halls of fame."



Koestler: accused of abusing women

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Stop feuding, orders Cunningham

Pressure grows on Chancellor to sack press aide over Mandelson leak, reports Jill Sherman

GORDON BROWN came under increasing pressure yesterday to dismiss his aide Charlie Whelan, after a Cabinet minister said that the Government had been damaged by unauthorised press briefings.

Jack Cunningham, the Minister for the Cabinet Office, urged rival ministers and their aides to halt their feuding and to stop anonymous briefings against each other. As the turmoil over Peter Mandelson's resignation continued, Clive Soley, chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, also called for an end to the "settling of old scores".

The opposition parties

seized on the latest evidence of Labour infighting. John Redwood, the Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, called on Tony Blair to break off his holiday in the Seychelles to end the "civil war tearing his Government apart".

Dr Cunningham did not name culprits, but said that the stream of briefings and counter-briefings was undermining the Government. "Quite clearly we need to put these matters behind us, and put behind us some of the activities of people who may think they can con-

duct their own agenda on their own account, whether it conflicts with the Government's aims and objectives or not," he told BBC Radio 4's Today.

Dr Cunningham said this state of affairs could not be allowed to continue. "It is not for me to determine which ministers or advisers should go or not — that is a matter for the Prime Minister."

"There have been briefings from time to time which have been damaging to the Government. I am not saying that they are all, or exclusively,

from any one particular source. Unauthorised, anonymous briefings have caused trouble for the Government, are causing trouble, and ought to stop."

Although Dr Cunningham's remarks could have been directed at the Treasury, Downing Street or the Department of Trade and Industry, they were widely interpreted by Blairite sources as an attack on Mr Whelan. The Chancellor's press secretary has been blamed for leaking the information about the £373,000

loan from Geoffrey Robinson, the former Paymaster General, to Mr Mandelson.

There has been speculation — but no evidence — that he told Paul Routledge, a journalist writing an unauthorised biography of Mr Mandelson, and that the information leaked from his publisher.

Mr Whelan has consistently denied that he was the source of the story and last night the Chancellor stood by him. "Gordon Brown has full confidence in Charlie Whelan," said a spokesman for the Treasury.

He added that Downing Street had denied reports in some newspapers yesterday that the Prime Minister had urged Mr Brown to get rid of him.

Downing Street, however, refused to be drawn on the reports. "There was mounting speculation yesterday that Mr Whelan, who is on holiday in Scotland, would be forced out in the next few weeks."

It is no secret that Treasury officials have been unhappy with the role of Mr Whelan and Ed Balls, Mr Brown's special adviser. Senior figures in

the Treasury feel that Mr Brown relies too heavily on them, often with dire consequences. They argue that much of the trouble that the Chancellor has run into in Europe is because Mr Whelan is out of his depth.

Attention has focused on Mr Whelan's role because of the longstanding feud between the Brown and Mandelson camps. The Chancellor has not forgiven Mr Mandelson for backing Mr Blair, rather than himself, for the Labour leadership.

Libby Purves and Diary, page 16
Letters, page 17

Tycoon's cash may get state pupils to Oxford

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

A MILLIONAIRE philanthropist is planning summer schools for up to 1,000 teenagers, which could enable state-educated students at Oxford and Cambridge universities to outnumber those from the independent sector for the first time in almost 20 years.

A quarter of the students from Oxford's first summer school, in 1997, won places at the university. The success rate contributed to a 2 per cent increase in the proportion of state-educated entrants at Oxford this summer, while the share at Cambridge declined.

Peter Lampl, the businessman behind plans for a new scholarship scheme in independent schools, has pledged £250,000 to double the places on new state-week-long courses at Oxford and Cambridge. With similar schools running at Bristol and Nottingham universities, the number of students will top 500.

Mr Lampl aims eventually to double the numbers again if he can find a sponsor to bear part of the £500,000 cost. The extra 250 state-educated entrants he expects the initiative to produce would tip the politically sensitive balance between entrants from state and independent schools.

Admissions figures, published this month, showed 43.9 per cent of this year's Oxford entrants were from the state sector and 47.3 per cent from independent schools. While state-educated students already outnumbered those from independent schools at Cambridge, the gap narrowed to 1 per cent this year.

Between the two universities, 132 more places went to applicants from the independent sector than the state system. Next year's expanded courses could tip the balance.

Sixteen of the 64 students, mainly from comprehensive schools, who attended the 1997 course at Oxford are now taking degrees at the university. The Sutton Trust, the charity established by Mr Lampl, is hoping for a similar success rate from the 190 students who went to Oxford or Cambridge this summer.

Mr Lampl, who made a fortune in business in Germany and the United States, began the schemes after being shocked by changes he found at Oxford on a return visit to his alma mater. The state school majority of his years in the 1960s had gone. "Oxford had again become something of a finishing school for the rich," he writes in an article to be published in Prospect magazine.

Straw plans a ceiling on referendum spending

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND PETER RIDDELL

THE Home Secretary, Jack Straw, has backed the imposition of an upper limit on campaign spending for referendums in a move that will worry opponents of the European single currency.

In an interview with The Times today, Mr Straw indicated that the Government's Bill on party funding would contain a limit on general election and referendum campaigns. The report into election spending by Lord Neill of Bladen made no mention of a limit on referendum spending.

Mr Straw said: "If there is a case for putting a cap on national spending in elections, I cannot see how the argument does not apply equally to referendums." He gave no indication of what the limit might be, although other government sources have suggested about £5 million.

That would please the pro-single currency campaign, which has made no secret of its difficulties in raising substantial finance. It will, however, upset the anti-euro campaign, which appears to have access to far greater resources, with the Yorkshire businessman Paul Sykes already pledged to provide up to £20 million. Mr Straw will publish the Bill within the next few months.

The Home Secretary also discloses that a powerful body designed to promote a new spirit of civic duty in Britain is to spearhead a drive to raise the low level of turnout in election. He is preparing to announce that the objectives of the proposed election commis-

sion will include raising awareness of the political process and overcoming the lack of interest and cynicism.

Mr Straw wants to broaden the role of the proposed commission to become involved in promoting the idea of good citizenship, including encouraging people to vote and showing them why it is worthwhile to do so. Voting at weekends, casting votes in places other than polling stations, such as supermarkets, removing all restrictions on absentee voting, and improving registration of voters will be considered.

The Home Secretary has decided to act after new figures showed that Britain had the lowest turnout or equal lowest turnout among the major West European countries. It came 65th in a survey of 163 countries. His main target will be local elections, in which the turnout in Britain is about 40 per cent.

Mr Straw, who is to publish his proposals for implementing the Neill report in a draft Bill before next summer's parliamentary recess, told The Times that he was keen on the election commission and on extending its role beyond that foreseen by the report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life. He wanted it to act as a "proselytising body" for the idea of citizenship.

"Education for citizenship has gone backwards. When I was at school we had civics lessons," he said, recalling that he won a civics prize in the third form.

Citizen Straw, page 6



Skiers queue for the chairlift at the Cairngorm Ski Centre yesterday. There will be more snow in the Highlands today and it will again be very windy

Storm-lashed areas face more gales

By TIM JONES AND AUDREY MAGEE

AS HOUSEHOLDERS in Britain and the Republic of Ireland cleared up yesterday after the savage weekend storms, they were given warnings to prepare for more gale-force winds, which are expected to affect large areas today.

Although not forecast to be as severe as the 100mph gusts that claimed six lives, wrecked buildings and left thousands without electricity, the winds today could damage homes and structures weakened by the previous onslaught.

Weather forecasters said that wind speeds could reach 70mph over North-

ern Ireland, South Wales and Cornwall, well into this evening.

At the weekend, Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic suffered the worst storms for 30 years, with 200,000 homes blacked out as electricity poles and wires were downed. Last night, 40,000 homes in the Province and the Republic were still without power. Electricity companies said that it would take until Friday to restore power to some remote areas.

In Scotland, 5,000 people were still without power last night after 20,000 customers were re-connected. South-west Scotland was worst affected by the weekend storms.

Alasdair Morgan, MP for Galloway

and Upper Nithsdale, said yesterday that he would be complaining to ScottishPower after being unable to get through to the company's 24-hour emergency helpline. "I shall be asking questions of ScottishPower to make sure that similar problems do not occur the next time we have such severe weather," he said.

ScottishPower received more than 500,000 calls in 24 hours over the weekend. It has pledged to pay £50 to every customer who was without power for more than 24 hours. "We were on stand-by but we weren't ready for the east to west, north to south extent of the damage," said Alan Richardson, the company's managing director of

power systems. "We've got 700 incidents to deal with and each one of them is typically a tree on the line."

Scottish Hydro-Electric said it had around 1,000 households without electricity. All were expected to be reconnected by this morning.

Across the border in Carlisle and Kendal, Norweb drafted in linemen from other companies to restore light and power to about 6,000 households. At the height of the storm, 65,000 homes had been cut off. The company said: "The men have been brilliant as they have had to contend with driving sleet and snow."

Forecast, page 20

Irvine admits Pinochet case was damaging

By MARK INGLEFIELD
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE law lords' turmoil over the Pinochet case brought the British legal system into disrepute, the Lord Chancellor said yesterday.

New procedures were needed, Lord Irvine of Lairg said, to prevent a repeat of the setting aside of the law lords' ruling that the former Chilean dictator was not immune — as a former head of state — from extradition proceedings.

A second panel of law lords ruled that the case had to be reheard after it emerged that one of the original panel, Lord Hoffmann, had links to Amnesty International, which had been campaigning for General Pinochet's extradition to Spain. "It is in the highest degree unfortunate, because it does have a tendency to bring the legal system into disrepute," Lord Irvine said on Radio 4's Today.

"This was litigation where the eyes of the world were and are upon us. But what is necessary is not to cry over spilt milk, but to see that procedures are put in place to ensure that this does not happen again."

In future, Lord Irvine said, panels of law lords assembled to hear an appeal should meet to consider whether the presence of any of them could give the appearance of a conflict of interest. If this were the case, the chairman of the panel should ensure that the law lord concerned did not sit.

The controversy over the Pinochet hearings has also led Lord Irvine to consider opening up the appointment of judges



Irvine said eyes of the world were on Britain

to public scrutiny. The Home Secretary is understood to have welcomed indications that Lord Irvine is preparing to look again at the creation of a judicial appointments commission, with lay people as members, to select candidates. At present law lords are appointed by the Queen on the advice of the Prime Minister. In an interview last week Lord Irvine, who put the idea firmly on the backburner a year ago, suggested that he might put the proposal out for consultation.

Although he remains sceptical about change, he has admitted that, when the Human Rights Act comes into operation in 2000, the judiciary will regularly make rulings on politically sensitive matters.

Ministers say that the current system, under which judges are appointed after confidential soundings are taken by officials from judges and the legal profession generally, is no longer acceptable in a "modernised" Britain.

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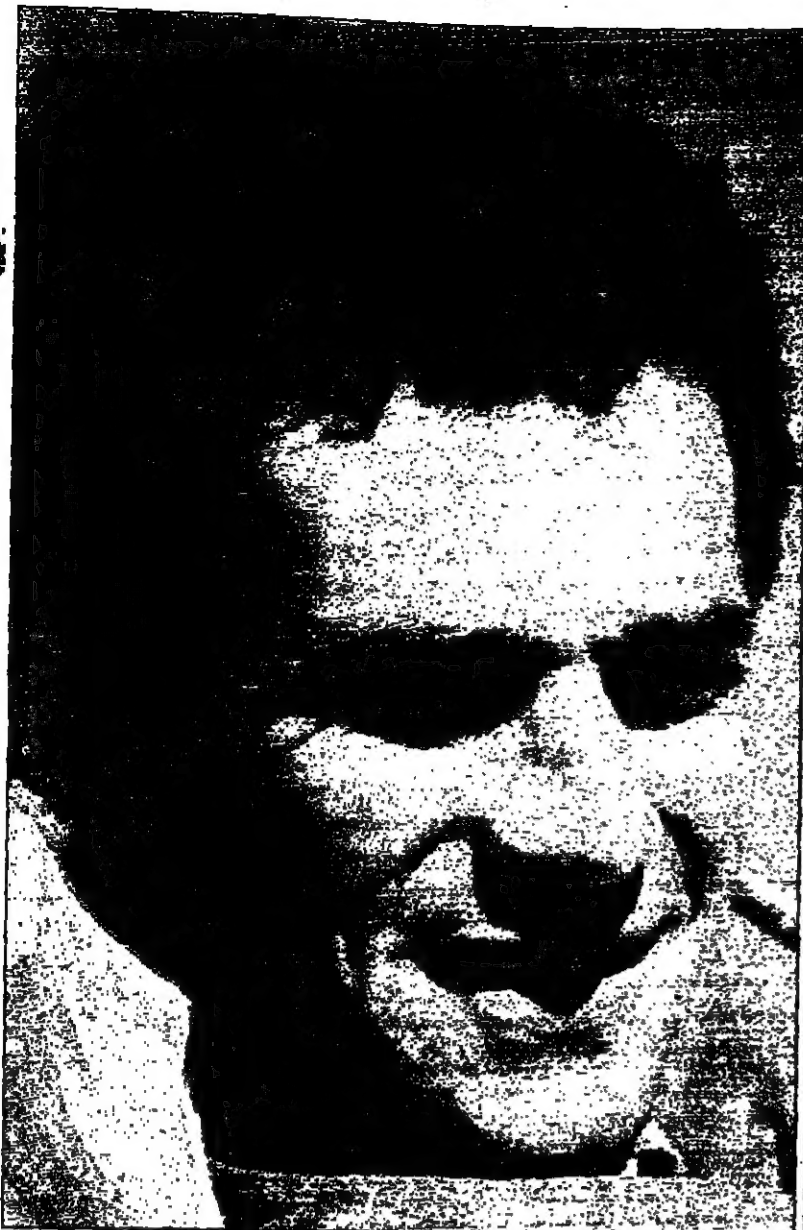
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He died doing what he loved, says mother



Glyn Charles, who is thought to have been swept from the cockpit of the *Sword of Orion* when the boat was overturned by a wave. Right, the stricken *Business Post Naiad*, which rolled over twice, killing its skipper and a crewman



THE mother of Glyn Charles, the British Olympic yachtsman feared drowned in the Sydney to Hobart race, yesterday recalled the last words she spoke to her only son on Christmas Eve.

"He phoned to say he was setting off in a few hours. He felt it was an opportunity. I always said if something happened to Glyn at sea, I'd feel that he was doing what he loved."

Mrs Charles, speaking from her home near Shaftesbury, said that her son had been in Australia doing some race training with other British sailors and had originally planned to be home to spend Christmas with her in Dorset.

However, he had phoned two days before Christmas to say that he had been asked to take part in the race on the 47ft yacht, *Sword of*

Orion and had decided to cancel his flight. "He asked me if it was OK and I told him 'Of course it is'. We used to talk about things like this. I used to say I was not worried about him sailing."

"Now that something like this has happened it is a bit different. But it is some comfort that if he is dead, it happened while he was sailing rather than in a road accident or something like that."

Minutes after hearing that the search had been called off, Mrs Charles said that she had been told there was no chance of finding her son alive. Mr Charles, 33, a talented helmsman from Emsworth in Hampshire, who represented Great Britain at the last Olympics in the

Star class where he finished 11th, is thought to have been swept from the cockpit of *Sword of Orion* when the boat was rolled through 360 degrees by a huge wave. When the hull righted itself, Mr Charles was no longer on board and it appears that the safety harness he was wearing broke away from the boat.

The yacht, skippered by Steve Kulmar and owned by Bob Kothe, had already retired from the race and was heading for shelter at Eden on the New South Wales coast when the accident happened. She was later abandoned in the Bass Strait and the remaining crew, including one with a broken leg, were airlifted to safety.

Mr Charles's death is the second

tragedy to hit his family in recent years. His father died several years ago after he fell off a roof in Spain. Mr Charles, who was unmarried but had a long-term girlfriend, was one of two children — his sister Merriam lives in France — and he went to school in Winchester, then to Portsmouth Polytechnic.

From childhood his ambition was to sail in the Olympics and, after joining the Royal Yachting Association Youth Squad, he became national champion in the highly competitive Laser class when he was 21.

He then moved to bigger boats and sailed four times in the Fastnet and the Admiral's Cup, representing Britain in 1995 but also sailing for Norway and Australia in other

years. His Olympic career took longer to take off as he struggled to overcome the talents of Lawrence Smith, who beat him in successive national trials in 1988 and 1992. Mr Charles finally overcame his old adversary to take the Star class team place at the last Olympics at Atlanta, the same year in which he finished fifth in the Bacardi Cup at Miami, one of the biggest Star class regattas of the year.

Mr Charles was a temperamental individual who never quite fulfilled his early potential, yet his future looked bright with another Olympic campaign already under way. "For me he was getting better and better all the time," Rod Carr, the RYA racing manager, said.

"Glyn was a pretty tightly strung individual but as he got older he was better able to see the wood for the trees and he was looking a stronger chance for a medal at the next games than the last."

Mrs Charles said her son had burnt with ambition to win Olympic glory in sailing; as a child he had written about it all over his satchel. "He'd been battling along against all sorts of odds in recent years in a profession which is not very easy," she said. "I think he was much more together now, not just sailing-wise but in his temperament too."

Friends said Mr Charles had spoken to his girlfriend, Annie Goodman, about competing and she had

given her blessing. Miss Goodman, 35, a marketing executive at the London accountancy firm Price Waterhouse Cooper, was last night being comforted by friends at the marina home overlooking the Solent that the couple shared in Emsworth, near Portsmouth.

In a statement released later through the Royal Yachting Association Mrs Charles said: "Glyn has been dedicated to sailing since a small boy and it was wonderful that he achieved his great ambition by competing in the 1996 Olympics. We shall miss him terribly and his great enthusiasm about everything. "He was a wonderful son and a loyal and supportive brother to his sister, Merriam, as well as being devoted to his girlfriend Annie."

Robin Knox-Johnston, page 16

Survivors tell of ordeal in a 'hell on high water'

Roger Maynard talks to rescued crewmen who fought for their lives in the fearsome storm

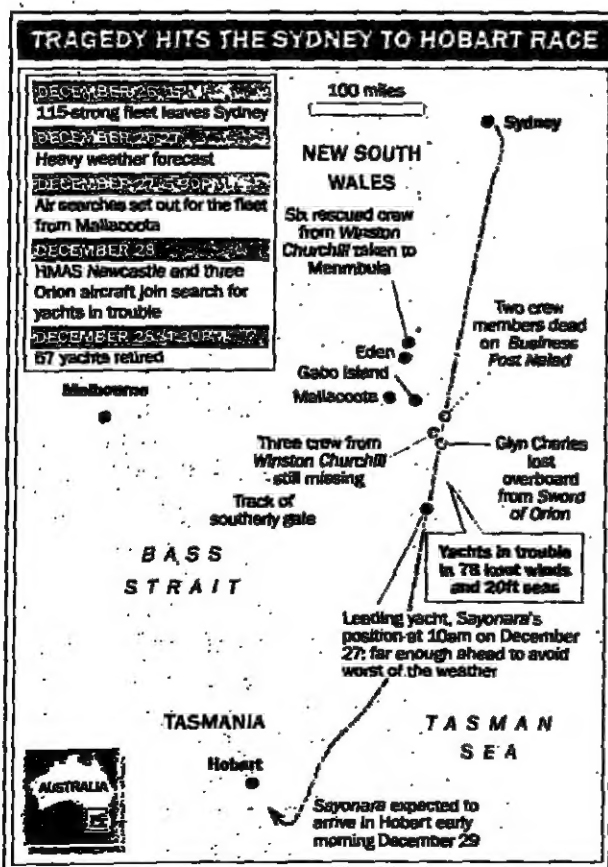
IN TERMS of adventure and human endurance, the Sydney to Hobart race is Australia's Everest of sailing. For 54 years it has captured the imagination of yachtsmen from all over the world. Yet, despite its reputation for treacherous weather, the blue-water classic has claimed only two lives until now.

Yesterday survivors described the appalling conditions that forced half the 115 vessels to retire or seek shelter. Veterans of the race said that they had never known wind or seas as fearsome.

"It was the worst conditions I have ever seen in 35 years. It was horrendous," said Geoff Boettcher, skipper of *Secret Men's Business*, which limped into the New South Wales fishing port of Eden yesterday morning.

"You would get hit once and think, 'Hell, I don't want to do that again in my life'. We were getting five, six, maybe seven-metre waves breaking on the top and that's roll-over material."

What caused the disastrous late change in the weather was an intense low pressure system that developed south-



east of the Australian mainland. With a strong wind blowing north up the coast and a fierce current running south, the sea conditions were terrible. They combined to produce waves as high as a two-storey house.

Skippers were warned of a southerly change at their pre-race briefing on Christmas Eve, but it struck later than

forecast. By the time many of them were preparing to enter the storm-tossed Bass Strait, which is notorious for short, steep seas and strong currents, the ocean resembled what Sydney-Hobart veterans call "hell on high water".

About 50 people had to be winched to safety from their damaged craft, including Mike Marshman, whose

abandoned yacht *Stand Aside* resembled a broken toy with its mast and half its cabin torn away. "We did a 360-degree roll and when we came up the mast was gone," he said.

His fellow crewman Simon Clark said he thought that he would not survive when the waves ripped open the yacht and threw him and seven others into the water. "The boat filled with water and we couldn't start the engine or anything, so we were basically helpless." Eventually all 12 crew were rescued, some with severed fingers and head injuries.

Another survivor, Kevin Lacey, from the yacht *Inkeeper*, which was also forced to retire damaged, said it was a fight to stay alive. "You get what you call square waves and you bounce off the top of them and there's nothing underneath. The boat just drops three, four or five metres — it's just like going over a speed hump that's 3ft high and you're doing 90 miles an hour."

Last night the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia promised to hold an inquiry as soon as possible. Peter Campbell, the club's media director, said that the event would have been delayed if race officials had known what was to confront the fleet.

But the reality is that the race is a Christmas institution in Australia, attracting thousands to Sydney Harbour to see the yachts depart. The organisers would have been aware that to have postponed it on such a bright, warm and beautiful day would have disappointed them as well as millions of television viewers.

Search for yachtsman called off

Continued from page 1
Charles, who was believed to have been wearing a safety harness, could not be found. The two confirmed dead were Bruce Guy, skipper of the Australian yacht the *Business Post Naiad*, who died of heart failure after the vessel rolled twice in the heavy storms, and his crewman Phil Skeggs, a first-time participant in the race who drowned as he sat strapped to a safety harness on the yacht. Both men were from Tasmania.

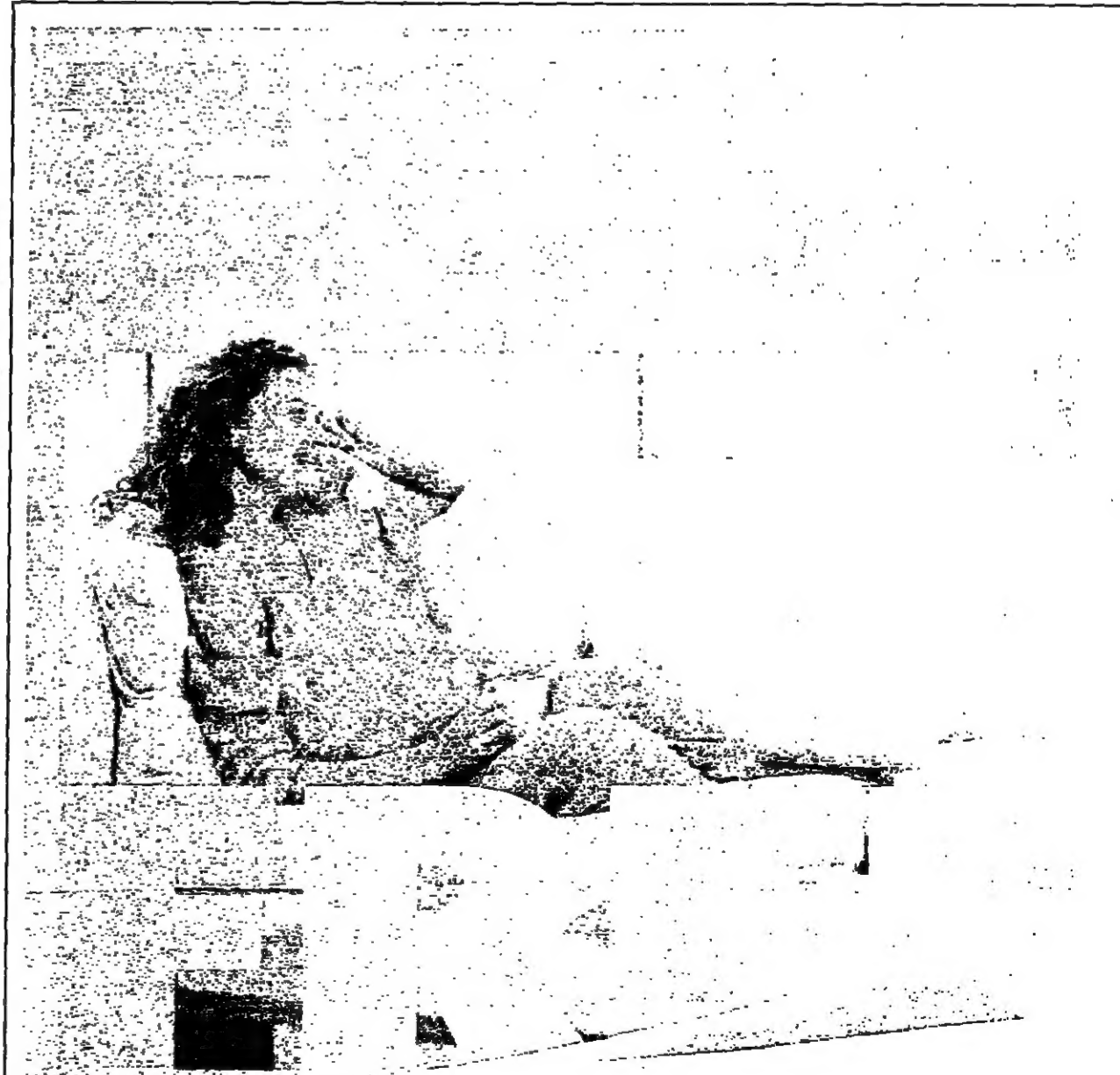
The annual Sydney to Hobart race is

one of the three old ocean-racing classics. Like the other two, the Fastnet Race and the Newport-Bermuda Race, the temperate climate in which it is sailed can throw up severe weather that can quickly turn it into an exercise in survival — but none of the three delays their start in the event of bad weather. If dangerous conditions do develop, there is a high probability of disaster striking somewhere because of the sheer size of the fleets.

Yesterday a spokesman for the race organisers said: "This race has been known

for its unpredictable weather, particularly in the Bass Strait. There will obviously be inquiries into the deaths but I don't think there could be any criticism of allowing the race to continue."

Sir Edward Heath, who won the race in 1969 with his yacht *Morning Glory*, defended the organisers. He said: "I feel very sad that these people have lost their lives. The conditions in this year's race sound much the same as they were in 1969 and we carried on then. I would probably have carried on this year, too."



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Graves are new cash crop on farm

Farmer predicts that woods could become the cemeteries of the 21st century, reports Michael Hornsby

AN ENTERPRISING farmer is creating a woodland graveyard on what was once featureless arable land. On the southern side of the Stour estuary in Essex is a nature reserve dotted with broadleaf trees, each of which marks a grave.

The site helps John Acton, of Wrabness Hall Farm, to make a living even though his land is bare of crops and livestock. It also helps the environment while giving an alternative to costly religious funerals.

Mr Acton runs the seven-acre Oakfield Wood site jointly with the Essex Wildlife Trust, to which he has transferred ownership of the land. "These will be the cemeteries of the 21st century," he said. "For a very competitive price you get a guarantee of a grave that will never be disturbed and the satisfaction of helping to create a beautiful landscape where people can walk and enjoy the trees and flowers."

Peter Kincaid, a director with Mr Acton of Green Woodland Burial Services, said: "We have buried more than 200 people at Oakfield Wood in the 2½ years since it opened. We have just acquired another site, of 18 acres, also on former farmland, near Guildford, and are awaiting planning consent. We hope Surrey Wildlife Trust will take an interest."

Burial at Oakfield costs about £850. This includes collection of the body, the purchase of a biodegradable chip-board coffin with rope handles, digging of the grave and the planting of a tree at the site. Only oak, ash, field maple, black poplar, wild service, hornbeam and silver birch are permitted. They are scattered about the land.

No gravestones are allowed, only a simple wooden plaque set into the ground with the name and dates of birth and death of the deceased. The plaques eventually rot away but the position of each grave is recorded in a register.

The cost of burial in crowded London cemeteries ranges from £600 to more than £2,000, depending on the borough. Graves may be moved to make way for new development and many municipal cemeteries save space by stacking bodies on top of each other in family plots.

The Home Office is discussing with councils the possibility of opening 100-year-old graves and reintering the remains deeper underground to make room for new arrivals.

Mr Acton's farm covers no more than 120 acres, too small to be viable as an agricultural enterprise. This year he expects to make a profit of £22,000 without growing crops or rearing livestock.

About £8,000 will come from his share of the burial fees at Oakfield Wood and the rest from grants that he receives under the European Union's set-aside scheme and for managing the land as wildlife habitat.

The Essex Wildlife Trust receives £15 per burial. "This goes into a fund that will be used to manage the reserve in perpetuity once burials come to an end in 15 to 20 years," Graham Game, the trust's development manager, said. It is expected that the site will hold about 4,000 graves.

A conventional religious ceremony can be arranged at the graveside for those who wish it but mourners are also free, within reason, to devise their own send-offs for loved ones.

"There was an upsurge of interest after the Princess of Wales died and was buried at Althorp," Mr Game said.



John Acton plants a broadleaf sapling at each grave, creating a wood on the bare fields above the River Stour. The total cost of a funeral is about £850

That increased public awareness that you do not have to be interred in consecrated ground."

Roger Moody buried his brother Peter, 59, who had Down's syndrome, at Oakfield Wood last May. "Neither I nor his friends wanted the rigmarole of a conventional funeral," he said.

"We did just about everything ourselves bar digging the hole. One friend made the coffin, another wrapped his body in a burial sheet at the hospital and brought it to the site. We lowered the coffin into the grave, along with some of his belongings, including a baseball cap and his favourite slippers."

"Someone brought a CD player and we all helped to fill

the grave with earth to the accompaniment of Richard Strauss's *Four Last Songs*."

"At exactly the moment when the singer reached the words 'Two skylarks soar above us, let us draw close together, soon it will be time to sleep', two skylarks did appear on the right overhead."

Leading article, page 17

Queen's *Bohemian Rhapsody* and John Lennon's *Imagine* were the only oldies to make the top 20. Led Zeppelin's *Stairway to Heaven* failed to reach the top 100 and the Beatles were nowhere to be seen.

Madonna reached only No 71 and the Spice Girls, who scooped the Christmas No 1 with *Goodbye*, were at No 76 with *Wannabe*. George Michael squeezed in at No 99.

Radio 1 said it was as surprised as anyone by the result, although most of its listeners are aged between 15 and 24. A spokesman said that the *National Anthems* added a fresh twist to more traditional lists of favourites.

Scott Mills, the DJ who co-presented the chart, said: "Radio 1's *National Anthems* is the choice of a new generation of pop fans, much more representative of the UK's musical taste as we approach the new millennium."

1 Massive Attack — *Unfinished Sympathy*
2 Nirvana — *Smells Like Teen Spirit*
3 The Verve — *Bitter Sweet Symphony*
4 Underworld — *Born Slippy*
5 Radiohead — *Creep*
6 REM — *Everybody Hurts*
7 U2 — *With Or Without You*
8 John Lennon — *Imagine*
9 Oasis — *Live Forever*
10 Stardust — *Music Sounds Better With You*
11 Oasis — *The Masterplan*
12 Robbie Williams — *Angels*
13 James — *Sit Down*
14 Manic Street Preachers — *Design for Life*
15 Blur — *Song 2*
16 Pulp — *Common People*
17 Radiohead — *Street Spirit*
18 Queen — *Bohemian Rhapsody*
19 Green Day — *Basket Case*
20 REM — *Losing My Religion*

day, believes that the final winner will be Shakespeare or Darwin.

"I'm surprised the list is monarch-free and Britain's military past is not more strongly represented," he said. "If we had done the poll 30 years ago, we would have seen it dominated by people like Churchill, Cromwell, Wellington and Nelson. I am also surprised that Elizabeth I didn't do better."

However, the list is only meant to be fun. It just gives a snapshot of who in Britain we think is important and what we think of our past."

The shortlist was drawn up by the producers after more than 15,000 listeners telephoned, wrote and e-mailed with their suggestions.

The winner will be announced on New Year's Day after listeners have voted on one of six dedicated hotlines. The lines opened at 6am to day and will close at 6pm tomorrow.

Rod Liddell, Editor of To-

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Royalty misses out in millennium poll

By CLAUDIA JOSEPH

WOMEN and royalty are absent from the contenders for the title of British personality of the millennium. Men of science and of letters dominate the all-male shortlist of six voted for by listeners of the Radio 4 programme *Today*.

The highest-ranking woman in the poll is Elizabeth I, in 11th place. Philosophers and social reformers are also absent from the shortlist, from which the overall winner will be selected on New Year's Day.

Peter Mandelson, the former Trade and Industry Secretary, the footballer Eric Cantona and the Muppets character Miss Piggy polled votes, but fell far short of a place on the shortlist.

The six contenders for Britain's personality of the millennium are William Caxton, William Shakespeare, Oliver Cromwell, Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin and Winston Churchill.

Rod Liddell, Editor of To-

day, believes that the final winner will be Shakespeare or Darwin.

"I'm surprised the list is monarch-free and Britain's military past is not more strongly represented," he said. "If we had done the poll 30 years ago, we would have seen it dominated by people like Churchill, Cromwell, Wellington and Nelson. I am also surprised that Elizabeth I didn't do better."

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"The more powers are devolved to parts of Britain, the greater the need for a strong, small centre"

Citizen Straw's eye is on the constitution

BRITAIN is going through the "most intensive programme of constitutional change since 1689", when the sovereignty of Parliament was firmly established. This bold claim is made by Jack Straw, who as Home Secretary, is not just responsible for police, the prisons and immigration, but has become, in effect, the minister for the constitution in the Commons, matching Lord Irvine of Lairg in the Lords.

As such, Mr Straw has a crucial say over some of the biggest, and most controversial, issues on the constitutional agenda — the future of the House of Lords, freedom of information, whether to change the voting system for the Commons, the conduct of referendums and the Neill report on party funding.

Mr Straw argues that these proposals — plus the ten constitutional Bills that have already become law — form part of a coherent overall strategy. The purpose is to "strengthen citizenship in this country and people's sense of citizenship". Britain, he says, has a less developed sense of being a citizen than virtually any other country. Some — in the Americas, Africa and the Indian subcontinent — have been colonies, while others, in continental Europe, have been through convulsions and conquest.

Talking to *The Times* just before Christmas, Mr Straw defended the piecemeal nature of the programme. That was the way it should be done in a parliamentary democracy — on "case-by-case basis". Otherwise, we would have to have a

Peter Riddell and Philip Webster speak to the Home Secretary on the state of change

huge Government of Britain Bill, five volumes long, that might contain flaws and could not be properly scrutinised.

Devolution, he says, has been carefully calibrated to match the degree of change to the particular circumstances. The degree of devolution has been greatest in Scotland, where popular support for it is greatest and where there has been a separate system of government for more than a century. The changes are smaller in Wales and England.

Mr Straw favours an organic system of development in England, starting with regional chambers and elected mayors in the big cities — like Joseph Chamberlain in Birmingham in the 1870s — though legislation on these has been put back until later in this Parliament. Moreover, "the more powers are devolved to parts of Britain and to citizens, the greater the need for a strong, small centre".

The other changes are intended "to shift the balance between the individual and the State", via the Human Rights Act (seen by Mr Straw as most important of all the measures)

and the Data Protection Act, with the promised legislation on freedom of information.

Mr Straw has always been seen in Whitehall as a conservative on this issue and campaigners for greater openness were worried when the Home Office took over responsibility from the Cabinet Office for drafting the long-promised Bill after the July reshuffle. Responding to these criticisms, he immediately reels off a long list of initiatives the Home Office has already taken, from ensuring that ministers are not involved in the publication of statistics to the disclosure of the draft guidance to officials on handling immigration and naturalisation.

The White Paper is now being refined into the more precise definitions of a draft Bill due in the new year. This, he concedes, involves assuring that some information has to be protected. Consequently, the details of the "harm" test, defining what information can be disclosed, are being re-examined, though he declines to say exactly how yet.

The other main constitutional measure for which Mr Straw is directly responsible is the promised Bill on party funding following October's Neill committee report. He supports the report's main conclusions, but wants to go further. He would like to expand the remit of the proposed election commission beyond oversight of elections, registration of parties and their financial accounts. In addition, he would like it to "act as proselytising body for citizenship, explaining what citizenship means in a non-partisan way".

The commission should also help to encourage increased participation, via increased turnout in elections.



Jack Straw at the Home Office. He says the people of Britain have a less developed sense of citizenship than those of virtually any other country

planning what citizenship means in a non-partisan way. The commission should also help to encourage increased participation, via increased turnout in elections.

The most sensitive issue is the conduct of referendums. The Neill committee caused a stir in suggesting that the Government should be neutral, implying that ministers could not have a view. This section of the report was clumsily worded, "opaque" in the words of Mr Straw. What the committee meant was that, unlike past referendums, the Government should not intervene by issuing propaganda. But this did not mean that the Government should not have views or that ministers could not, and would not, speak out.

Moreover, Mr Straw emphasises that referendums are not like general elections since they take place during the course of governments. So ministers must be able to consult civil servants on questions of economic management. Arrangements must take account of these realities. For instance, in any referendum on a single currency, "ministers would have to be advised about market movements and act on them".

Mr Straw, a backer of the No camp in 1975, characteristically has copies of the leaflets in that campaign to hand. He agrees that there ought to be an even field in a referendum. But "the Government should be able to put out a White Paper explaining it proposed a referendum ahead of the necessary legislation".

He agrees that the Government should not spend money supporting one side when the campaign has started (after legislation has been passed) and should not then distribute literature.

He regards as anomalous, however, the Neill proposal that there should be caps on national spending by parties in election campaigns but not in referendums. Although formal decisions have not yet been taken, he cannot see why such caps on spending should not apply in referendums.

Later in the day of our interview, Mr Straw was due to attend the ministerial committee examining the draft White Paper on the House of Lords due to be published early in the year. He confirmed the desire to move on as quickly as possible with the royal commission, which would have a

tight timetable. The Government would, he said, make clear its desire for "a more representative and democratic chamber. But such a second chamber will really only work if it is acknowledged that the first chamber is the pre-eminent one."

The commission would have to look at the balance struck between the appointed and democratic elements, and how they might be elected. Also, he accepted that the powers of the second chamber would have to be re-examined. "Any likely body with a greater degree of legitimacy, more democratic and more representative, would exercise more of its theoretical powers."

There have been suggestions that a longer-term plan for the future of the Lords might be included in a referendum along with proposals to change the voting system for the Commons following the recommendations of the Jenkins Commission. Mr Straw has made no secret of his doubts about the Jenkins plan, much to the annoyance of Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader. Mr Straw concedes the speculation about a double question referendum and says, with a smile, that "there would, of course, have to be two questions", one for the Lords and one for the Commons.

This would open the possibility of a yes/no vote, though Mr Straw is too discreet to say so publicly. After all, constitutional reform is not just for the lawyers. It is an intensely political exercise, as it was in 1689 — and Mr Straw is, first and foremost, a skilful politician.

Alarm over big rise in child prostitution

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

MEN who control or use child prostitutes are to be the targets of a police campaign announced by the Government today.

Latest Home Office figures show that the number of children convicted of soliciting increased from 101 to 177 in 1995-96. The 75 per cent increase, and a case involving an 11-year-old girl cautioned for an offence linked to

prostitution, have highlighted the extent of the problem in England and Wales.

A police pilot project in Wolverhampton, where children involved in prostitution were treated as victims of abuse, has found that the number of youngsters involved was much greater than had been thought.

Government guidelines published today say that children under 18 are to be treated as victims of crime rather than offenders. Although prostitution and soliciting by children will remain an offence, the expected effect of the guidelines will be an end to the use of the criminal law against boys and girls involved in prostitution.

Paul Boateng, a Home Office minister, said: "Pimps and abusers identify children who are vulnerable and force them into prostitution for their own gains. These children are utterly desperate, they are not making a free economic or moral choice."

But the Government has rejected

calls to decriminalise child prostitution. Mr Boateng said: "The criminal law plays an important role in establishing society's view that prostitution is not welcome, nor is it acceptable for children to be involved."

In 1996 there were 288 cautions and 177 convictions of girls under 18 for soliciting and six cautions of boys, according to Home Office figures.

The project in Wolverhampton and another in Nottingham showed that in the 12 months to August 1998, 22

men and three women were prosecuted for serious sexual offences involving children. Offences included rape, unlawful imprisonment and living off immoral earnings.

Ian Sparks, chief executive of The Children's Society, said: "More police forces around the country have taken a more enlightened approach towards children on the streets, so the figures are a real shock to us. The fact that an 11-year-old child has been cautioned is beyond belief."



Boateng: protection for "desperate victims"

Gene clue to curing ovarian cancer

By NIGEL HAWKES

A NEW clue to the development of cancer of the ovary has been found by scientists in California and Texas.

They have discovered that ovarian tumours contain multiple copies of a gene involved in cell proliferation. As a result, these cells are overproduced with a protein, PIK3CA, which encourages growth of cells and inhibits the natural process of cell death.

Cells containing the multiple copies grow uncontrollably, forming a tumour. The team, led by Laleh Shayesteh, of the University of California at San Francisco, also show that, if the activity of the overactive gene is inhibited, cells return to near-normal behaviour.

The findings, published in *Nature Genetics*, suggest new drug strategies for treating ovarian cancer by blocking the gene. This might be done by producing antibodies against the growth protein and using them together with normal chemotherapy.

A new breast cancer drug, Herceptin, which was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration in September, works on this principle. Trials have shown that it can slow the progress of breast cancer in women who produce too much of a growth factor receptor called HER2.

Ovarian cancer is the fifth commonest cancer in women, with about 5,000 cases diagnosed every year in Britain.

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Rats may hold key to diabetes

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

BRITISH scientists have identified a gene responsible for a common condition linked to obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease.

People who have the condition, insulin resistance, respond poorly to insulin and have high levels of fats in their bloodstreams. The syndrome is found in 40 per cent of those who develop heart disease at an early age.

A team at the Medical Research Council's Clinical Sciences Centre at Hammersmith Hospital, working in collaboration with others in Prague, New York and California, used rats with a similar condition to model the human disease.

Using a new technique which can pinpoint one gene among many, they have found that, in the rat, the defective gene is one responsible for carrying fatty acids into the cell. The gene, called Cd36, is so damaged in the

rats that it is incapable of making a protein that works.

Reporting in the journal *Nature Genetics*, Timothy Aitman and his colleagues said that rats genetically engineered with extra Cd36 had lower levels of fats in their bloodstream, confirming that the gene is responsible for controlling fat metabolism.

"The biological plausibility of this gene suggests that a deficiency in Cd36 may play an important part in human insulin-resistance syndromes," they concluded.

The finding is important because in the past it has been difficult to tease out the genetic causes of diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, or schizophrenia, in which several different genes are likely to play a part.

The technique has much potential for finding the genetic causes of complex diseases and, indirectly, better ways of treating or preventing them.

Baby sent home with meningitis

By NIGEL HAWKES

THE parents of an 11-month-old girl who died from meningitis hours after doctors had diagnosed an ear infection and sent her home have called for an inquiry.

Charmaine Murphy, of Consett, died on December 17 at Dryburn Hospital, Durham. Catherine and Peter Murphy had taken her there the night before with a temperature. Doctors said that an ear infection was causing her heart to race.

North Durham Acute Hospitals NHS Trust said an internal review had found that the accident and emergency department behaved "appropriately and properly".

Mrs Murphy said the family wanted to know why meningitis had not been diagnosed when her baby was first taken to hospital. Charmaine died shortly after being taken back to hospital.

Back strain and RSI 'neglected'

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

BACK injury and repetitive strain injury, the most common work-related disorders, cost the economy more than £2 billion a year with a total of more than a third of a million sufferers and 10 million working days lost.

A survey of 500 workplaces, published today by the TUC, shows that back strain and RSI are increasing fastest in the North West, and also rising in the South East and North East. While the majority of cases are found in the manufacturing sector, both conditions are becoming especially common among those working in education and RSI is widespread among local government officers.

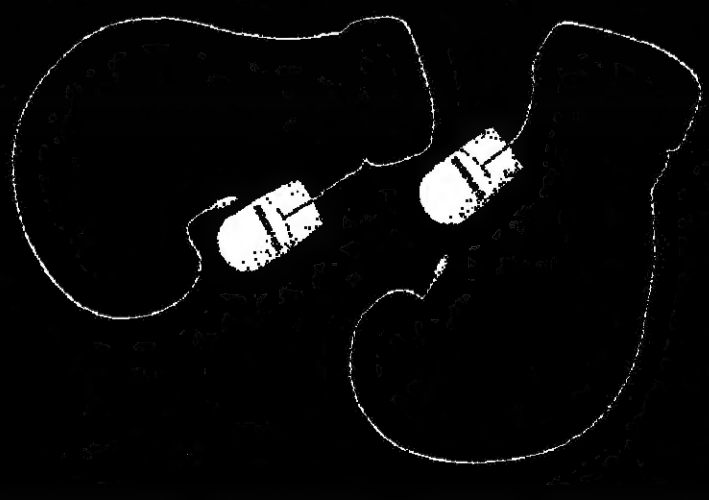
The TUC found that employers generally took back strain more seriously than RSI but gave neither condition a high priority. Only 17 per cent of firms had bothered to calculate the cost of back strain and only 11 per cent had

calculated the cost of RSI. Less than a third (31 per cent) of employers provided treatment or rehabilitation for workers laid off with back strain. Only 22 per cent of those with RSI were offered physiotherapy.

On the basis of the survey, the TUC is to press the Government to conduct a campaign against conditions that cause back strain at work. It is also calling on the Health and Safety Executive to do more to make employers assess the risk of RSI.

"Employers have a legal and moral responsibility to prevent RSI and back strain," John Monks, the TUC general secretary, said. "They also have a financial responsibility to their firms and our research suggests they don't even know how much this back strain epidemic is costing them. If they knew the truth, I am sure they would want to do something about it."

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Tim Jones reports an unhappy ending to a £30,000 love story

Canham: five-year fight for Ormsi, below

He said that he did not know the whereabouts of his former wife.



BY MICHAEL HARVEY

Kevin Millington, 43, the mechanical engineer leading the team, said: "We employ all these techniques in ordinary cave digging, but we don't normally make the passages wide enough for the public."



BY DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

Thirty orchestras and two concert halls were consulted as well as the public. Audiences criticised notes that were "colourless, turgid, too brief or too long-winded" and objected to the space given to advertising for and details about sponsors. About 67 per cent always buy a programme.

BY MARK INGLEFIELD
POLITICAL REPORTER

Under the Football Spectators Act 1988, the period for which a person can be subjected to a banning order will be extended from two hours before a match and one hour afterwards to 24 hours either side of a game. It will close the loophole that allows lone supporters, unlike groups, to chant racist abuse, and include provisions to ban alcohol and for the confiscation of passports.

Mr Burns, MP for Chelmsford West, said: "Despite the best endeavors of the last Government and the current one, the disgraceful behaviour by a small number of youths at the World Cup shows that more needs to be done to allow the police and courts to take greater action."

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£100m shortfall hits celebration plans

BY MARK HENDERSON

WITH just 12 months to go until the millennium, Britain's biggest celebration projects are still more than £100 million short of funding targets.

The Millennium Dome in Greenwich needs another £30 million to reach its private investment target of £150 million, with several of its themed zones still without a sponsor.

The 28 "landmark" projects receiving grants of more than £15 million are still looking for a further £74 million. Only three have already covered their costs, and several have been scaled down or are now being built in stages. A further £12 million is also needed to

complete smaller projects, such as redeveloping village halls.

The shortfall, however, is much smaller than it was in August, when £330 million was still to be found. The Millennium Commission is confident that most of the money will be raised comfortably.

No project has yet put back its opening date, though several were never expected to be ready until late 2000 or 2001, and organisers — such as the Cardiff Millennium Stadium, which is needed for the autumn 1999 Rugby World Cup — will open on time. A spokes-



man for the Millennium Commission said: "Money still needs to be found, but a lot of progress has been made. Nothing should be delayed."

Millennium projects qualify for grants from the commission of up to half their overall costs, but must raise matching funds from sources such as private business, local authorities or the European Union before they get the money. Three landmark schemes — the Millenni-

um Cycle Route, the Millennium Link's Forth & Clyde and Union Canals, and the Groundwork urban renewal project — have already secured all their funds. Several more, such as the redevelopment of the Hampden Park stadium in Glasgow and the University of the Highlands and Islands, are close.

Others, though, are in more trouble. The Earth Centre in Doncaster will still be the first

landmark to open to the public on April 2 1999, but visitors will be able to visit only its £42 million first phase.

The centre will explore environmental themes ranging from the Big Bang to modern pollution. More than half of the original blueprint, however, will not be there. A 28-metre tower will be left until April 2000, and The Ark, a huge greenhouse with rainforest and desert zones, will open later still. Those two stages will cost at least £46 million, and the project has still to raise more than £20 million before it can get its full grant.

Other schemes, including The Deep marine centre in Hull and the International

Centre for Life in Newcastle, have also scaled back plans. The Eden Centre, a set of giant greenhouses in Cornwall, has had to scrap one of its 60-metre high "biomes" for its April 2000 opening. It is only £4 million short, however, and hopes to build it in the future.

There is better news from Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh, which will open in May 1999. It is almost complete and has less than £1 million find. The development, opposite the new Scottish parliament and close to Holyroodhouse, will present the geological development of the earth.

The Lowry, a waterside entertainment complex in Salford featuring theatres, galler-

ies and multimedia centres, has overshot investment targets, but must still raise about £4.5 million, as some sponsorship is in kind and does not qualify as funding. It will open to the public on April 28, 2000.

The National Space Science Centre in Leicester, too, is doing well. Its Challenger Learning Centre, which will include simulations of space flight, will open well ahead of schedule in October 1999.

Deirdre Livingstone, millennium campaign manager at the British Tourist Authority, said that landmark schemes had attracted worldwide interest. "We're expecting a real boost to tourism from the millennium," she said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Balloon take-offs delayed

The two latest attempts to circumnavigate the world by balloon were struggling to overcome delays yesterday. The British Cable & Wireless team is trying to reach agreement with Beijing over permission to cross China. Re/Max, a joint American and Australian team, has been forced to put off its departure because of winds over its launch pad in the Outback. It is now expected to take off tomorrow or on Friday.

Ellis appeal

Lawyers are to make an application to the Criminal Cases Review Commission in an attempt to overturn the murder conviction of Ruth Ellis, the last woman hanged in Britain. She was executed in 1955.

Sheep charge

A 16-year-old youth appeared before Wantage magistrates after farmers allegedly found him naked in a field in Oxfordshire among a flock of sheep. He was accused of a sexual offence and breach of the peace.

Althorp car park

Earl Spencer has won a battle to create a car park for his private estate on an ancient meadow despite local opposition. The chairman of Daventry District Council used her casting vote to approve the scheme.

Squirrel threat

Red squirrels that eat only nuts can develop a brittle-bone disease, the Institute of Zoology has found. People feeding them are asked to give peanuts, maize, pine, wheat, sunflower seeds, carrots and apples.

Hide-and-stuck

A father had to be rescued by firemen when a game of hide-and-seek went wrong. John Guernan, 42, became wedged in his kitchen cupboard as he hunted for his son's walkie-talkie. It had been a Christmas present.

Prince in no mood to party over the re-release of 1999

BY MARK HENDERSON

THE pop star Prince has embarked on a new dispute with his former record label over the rights to his song 1999, which is widely tipped to be the biggest hit of next year.

The diminutive American singer, who now prefers to be known as "the Artist", forfeited his rights to the single as part of the agreement that freed him from his contract with Warner Brothers in 1996 after a bitter dispute. He is determined to stop the company profiting from the record's expected popularity.

He has recorded seven remixes on his new record label, NPG. He hopes these will bounce the original in the charts and has invited fans to sign an Internet petition demanding the return of his rights over the song, which Warner reissued last week.

Bob Merlis, a Warner spokesman, said that the company had recognised the potential of 1999 as soon as Prince recorded it in 1982. Executives had thought, "if it's not a hit now, we know we'll have another shot", he said.

Prince, who has never allowed his work to be used in advertisements, is also con-

NET LINKS



Prince: has remixed song

<http://www.cityscape.net/140a/cgi-bin/petition/addquest.htm> Prince's petition

<http://www.thedawn.net> Prince home page

<http://www.warnermusic.co.uk> Warner UK home page

cerned that Warner is considering selling 1999 to advertising agencies. The song is the tune most requested by agencies in America and some are reportedly prepared to pay up

to \$1 million for the rights. A spokesman for Warner said that the label had not yet sold the commercial rights but reserved the right to do so.

The spat is the latest incident in the troubled relationship between the singer and the label, which oversaw his rise to stardom in the early 1980s. While fighting to be released from his contract, Prince performed at the 1995 Brit Awards ceremony with the word "slave" written on his face, and then called his first album after leaving Warner *Emancipation*.

Warner said that it was not worried about Prince's campaign and had the right to re-release the track. "We've got used to his pretty bizarre behaviour and it doesn't mean that much to us any more," the spokesman said. "It's a long time since the split and it's water under the bridge."

Warner is not the only one likely to make money from the single's re-release. Neil Crespian from Surrey stands to make £5,000 if 1999 is number one at any time next year, after placing a £50 bet at William Hill six years ago. The bookmaker has since cut the odds to 6-4 for the song being top next Christmas.



The Rev Margaret Joachim: she has urged people to act sensibly

Evangelicals see computer bug as God's vengeance

BY RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

FEARS that the millennium bug will bring chaos and could represent God's judgment on a sinful mankind are growing among some Evangelical church leaders in Britain.

British Evangelicals have not gone as far as their American counterparts, who are stocking up food in anticipation of the collapse of society, but many are concerned over what might happen if computers fail to cope with the date-change. About 20 Christian leaders in London heard recently from Peter Erbe, of the Noah project in Atlanta, who believes that communities should stockpile goods to survive "total devastation". He told the meeting that 2000 could usher in the "Last Days" described in the Book of Revelation. The instrument of devastation, he argued, would be the millennium bug, which he compared to the Flood described in Genesis. "We have forgotten all that is sacred," he said.

Miles Prouer, who formerly worked for an investment bank and is now assessing the impact of the bug with Evangelical leaders, believes he has a mission to make Churches available to help in what could become a global crisis. "It is probable that a number of systems will break down," he said, adding, "This is another of the daily examples of God's judgment. I don't believe it is the end of the world, or that we will see Christ's Second Coming. But we must be clear that this is something we should all pray about. We should reach out to everyone with the message that God will be there, no matter what."

The Rev Dr Margaret Joachim, an Anglican priest in West London and computer management consultant, said: "The problem is man-made. It happened because technology 20 years ago was not as advanced as it is now. I don't foresee major disasters, if people act sensibly now."

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estinian state on May 4, the date that the negotiations with Israel are due to run out.
□ Bomb verdict: An Israeli military court has sentenced a Palestinian to life imprisonment for driving two suicide bombers to a busy intersection north of Tel Aviv in January 1995, where they killed 22 people. The militant Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the attack. (AP)

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SUN 11-12.5pm**

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

German

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN BONN

The Worry Index, based on opinion research by the Infratest Institute, is traditionally conducted at the end of the

OF THE NEW EUROPE

‘Scandals have highlighted the weakness of Belgium and reforms have disintegrated’

costs. If EMU harmonises wages, interest rates and perhaps taxes, but does not even out social and economic inequalities, that would no longer be the case. Italy's 1999 growth rate, forecast at 2.5 per cent, has been revised down to 1.8 per cent by Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, the Budget and Treasury Minister, and could even be lower. Inflation is within

ns turn

Remarkably, the biggest concern is the destruction of tropical rainforests (a fear shared

Signor Bossi says much the same. But the separatists of Europe are biding their time.

Darje Boutboul, the former French jockey, and her husband, Jacques Perrot, with their son. It was the acrimonious battle that developed later over his custody that was put forward as the motive for Perrot's murder during the trial of Marie-Elisabeth Cms-Bombouil. Darje's mother

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

Perrot, 39, a wealthy lawyer, gentleman-jockey and playboy with high-level political connections, was shot outside his parents' Paris apartment on December 21, 1985. He was found with two bullets in his head, a third in his heart and a cigarette still in his fingers. Mme Cons-Boutboul was arrested after her chauffeur told police that she had once asked him if he knew



Darie Boutboul, left, with her lawyer at her mother's trial

The body of the man suspected of shooting Perrot was found in the Le Havre bay in 1988. It took more than eight years to bring Mme Cons-Boutboul to trial, where she had an answer for everything. She dismissed the idea that she had handed a plastic handbag full of cash to a hitman, pointing out that her bag was leather and Louis Vuitton. Quizzed over why she had claimed to have cancer no fewer than

While the evidence showed that Mme Cons-Bouthoul was hardly the demure granny she appeared, her lawyers argued that the prosecution case lacked proof. The decision to free her was made by the prison authorities in defiance of the Justice Ministry. Her lawyer, said: "She is going to take up the case again and proclaim her innocence. She talks of nothing else."

**FROM ROGER BOYES
IN BONN**

The Worry Index, based on opinion research by the Infratest Institute, is traditionally conducted at the end of the

year and is regarded as a reliable snapshot of the country's neurosis. For more than three years, pollsters reported a solid two thirds opposition to the euro and a high level of anxiety about the scrapping of the mark. However, days before the introduction of the euro, Infratest finds that only 38 per cent of Germans see the euro as a problem.

Remarkably, the biggest concern is the destruction of tropical rainforests (a fear shared

Worry No 2 is the shifting of jobs abroad — a potent populist argument against eastward enlargement of the European Union, since many German manufacturers are mov-

The increase in crime and ex-

The euro ranks only eighteenth in the Worry Index. This goes some way towards explaining the shift in the attitude of Gerhard Schröder, the Chancellor, towards the euro. A year ago he favoured a delay

A year ago he favoured a delay in the introduction of the new currency rather than a softening of the entry criteria. This

Various events are planned for Friday to mark the birth of the euro. A "euro street festival" is to be held in front of the European Central Bank headquarters in Frankfurt. Ten thousand Germans will form a human version of the euro

Frankfurt airport is launching a "euro welcome day" with a euro-shaped cake.

By TOM WALSH

THE international negotiator in Kosovo, William Walker, yesterday flew to Vienna to reassure his bosses in the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) that unarmed monitors are able to help maintain peace.

The first signs of divisions emerged within OSCE at the weekend as Bronislaw Gere-

A new ceasefire seems to have done little to assuage the doubts of many diplomats, who increasingly believe that Nato will be needed to bring

Mr Walker, however, is determined that the mandate of

An aide said that Mr. Walker was in good spirits. "There is no comparison to where we were last summer and now," he said. "We've got monitors where the recent fighting was and we have been aggressive with both sides. There is an un-

understanding with the Yugoslav Army and the Serbian police to pull back."

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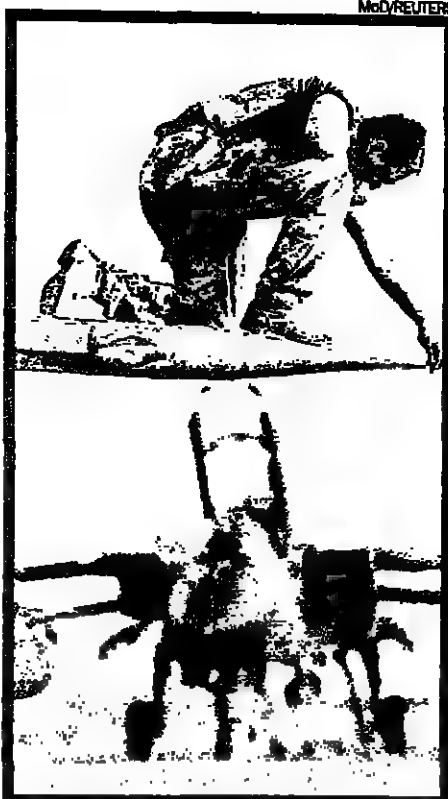
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1998: a year of folly, fear and



The RAF bombed Iraq, but who gained?

This was the year of the great "if only", when the folly of everyone from American Presidents to footballers came into sharp focus. Among the top regrets were surely David Beckham's "If only I'd kept my foot still"; Bill Clinton's "If only I'd left the cigar in the box"; and Peter Mandelson's "If only I'd settled for a cheap house near the Dome". But if General Pinochet regretted a visit to Britain, other despots have yet to count the cost — just ask Saddam Hussein and Slobodan Milosevic. Some will rightly remember 1998 as an apocalyptic year of crisis, but there have been amusing moments too, as Bill Frost concedes in his politically incorrect snapshot of the year

DAWN OF MILLENNIUM FEVER

BY THE time you read this you could be heartily sick of parties. So, forget the millennium bug, global warming and recession — spend the next year at a health farm, recovering your *joie de vivre* in time for the biggest bash in a thousand years.

So what if there is no parking at Greenwich, completion of the Underground link to the Dome remains in doubt and the catering is courtesy of McDonald's? Let's face it, only the immortal will live to see the celebrations in 3000.

But try to celebrate elsewhere and there are opportunists lurking, intent on squeezing your wallet until the pips squeak. A survey of more than 1,000 hotels showed that restaurants and pubs are set to cash in on Millennium Eve party fever by trebling prices. "There is a feeling that anything goes," says Sarah Parsons, from the trade magazine *Caterer & Hotel-keeper*.

The London nightclub owner Peter Stringfellow (for the uninitiated, a man in his late fifties with long hair dyed an unlikely shade of yellow, always surrounded by girls a third his age) says he is set to make "a bloody fortune". Surely a good enough reason to go elsewhere?

However, be warned. Baby-sitters are talking about charging the "market rate", already pushing £25 an hour.



Dome's day: prepare to party — and pay through the nose

ENTENTE NON-CORDIALE

AS BRITISH bombers strafed and pounded Baghdad, there must have been at least a few in new Labour who wished, just for a nano-second, that the targets were closer to home. For 1998 has not been a great year for relations with our European Union partners.

Tony Blair has tried not to appear irked at plans by the EU's senior partners, France and Germany, to "harmonise" taxes — which, literally translated, means put them up.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, even smiled through a "hand-bagging" at a recent Euro-summit administered by Germany's Finance Minister, Oskar Lafontaine — the very man calling for tax harmonisation, and for a cut in Britain's rebate.

"I'm like Margaret Thatcher — I want my money back," Lafontaine is reported to have said while bashing Brown with the handbag of one Frida Zelt. No wonder *The Sun* dubbed Lafontaine the most dangerous man in Europe.



The cracks are beginning to show: Hillary Clinton was not impressed by revelations of her husband's cavorting with Monica Lewinsky, below

THE LAST LAUGH

AS THE year died, so did Bill Clinton's hopes of avoiding impeachment. Not even the smart bombs pounding Iraq could save Slick Willy this time. A full trial for high crimes and misdemeanours before the Senate now looms, with Monica Lewinsky once again the star witness. The frock in the fridge, the encounters in the corridor, the whole "inappropriate relationship" will again be explored.

Clinton has vowed to work "to the last day" of his term of office and is hoping for an eleventh-hour deal. If anyone can manage such sleight of hand, it is surely he. But despite the opinion polls, there's no smart money riding on his chances of survival yet.

Saddam Hussein must be chuckling in one of his Baghdad bunkers. He can rebuild his stockpile of doomsday weapons in the fullness of time and continue to cock a snook at the world. What is more, he is President of Iraq for life. Slick or what?

But the loudest laugh could well belong to Hillary Clinton. As 1999 dawns, there are rumours that she wants to run for the Senate. With her popularity high, that certainly seems an option. During the congressional election campaign, it was she who toured the country, advising Bill to focus on foreign affairs.

This month she's the cover girl of *American Vogue*, and *Time* magazine was said to be considering naming her its "Man of the Year". And after a year of dignity under fire, she may finally be firing of her errant husband; she coif-shouldered him during their recent trip to Israel, and *National Enquirer* magazine reports that she hit him so hard on the cheek that he needed make-up to cover the bruise.



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In from the cold: after years of bad press, Charles and Camilla have been rehabilitated

FORGET new Labour, what about gay Labour? Three Cabinet ministers were "outed" in almost as many weeks this autumn: Ron Davies went on an outing to Clapham Common, which he denies was an "outing", but which led to his resignation nevertheless; Peter Mandelson — unmasked by Times columnist Matthew Parris on BBC's *Newsnight* — and Nick Brown, Agriculture Minister, who came out after a former lover threatened to kiss and tell. Brown's discretion earned the tolerance of farmers, who said he could do as he liked as long as he helped their industry. Mandelson was brought down not by his sexuality, but by the size of his house (a very British preoccupation). The row about that loan rumbles on, in a way that speculation about Mandelson's private life never would have done (not at any rate with

OUTINGS

the BBC banning any reference to his sexuality). The lesson? Sexuality doesn't matter any more but political nous and common sense do.

George Michael learnt a similar lesson about public places when he was found guilty of lewd conduct in a Beverly Hills public lavatory in April. The publicity did nothing to dent sales of his album, *Ladies and Gentlemen*, but as he told Michael Parkinson, he'd rather have run down Oxford Street naked, shouting, "I'm gay, I'm gay" than have come out with so little dignity.

From the carnal to the sublime... at last, the love that can speak its name! Camilla and Charles are now an item, at least according to a Sunday red-top. She openly stays with him at St James's Palace and

Highgrove at least three nights a week and the young Princesses are content that their father is happy at last. The nation, too, seems well-disposed towards him. And there are signs that we are finally warming to Camilla. So, just 16 months after the death of Diana, Charles's image has been transformed. Appropriately, it was Geri Halliwell, the Spice Girl transformed into a United Nations emissary, who was the star turn at his 50th birthday celebrations in November, dressing up as Marilyn Monroe and blowing a kiss to the Prince. The jollity was somewhat marred by an ITV documentary suggesting that the Prince was impatient for his mother to abdicate — he issued a denial. A biography by Penny Junor, which had benefited by a little too much collaboration from Charles's friends, also caused a storm.

INNINGS

BE FAIR, it's been a mixed year for England's sportsmen. A Test in the West Indies was abandoned because of a dangerous pitch. England won a five-Test series for the first time in 12 years (against South Africa), but crumbled when faced by the Aussies.

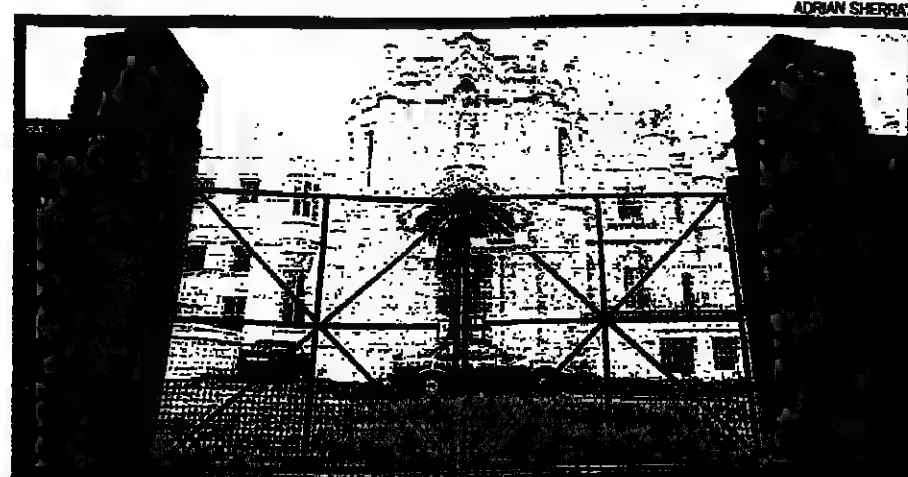
And what about football's World Cup? What is certain is that no one who saw England v Argentina will ever forget it — 2-2 at the start of the second half, when Beckham, himself fouled, delivered a petulant kick to his assailant, earning a red card and leaving England with ten men. And then there was the penalty shoot-out, ending with David Batty's heroic failure. Still, Michael Owen, the 18-year-old Liverpool striker, emerged swathed in glory, the toast of teenage girls everywhere.



Pin-up: Michael Owen

CELEBRITY CASUALTIES

THE PRIORY, an exclusive clinic in southwest London, has never done so well, in terms of publicity at least. Gaza was enthused with fresh hope after his treatment for alcohol; other residents included "emotionally exhausted" supermodel Kate Moss, pop widow Paula Yates and "depressed" TV inquisitor Ruby Wax. 1998 has been the year to get elegantly wasted and cured... if you can afford £3,000 a week.

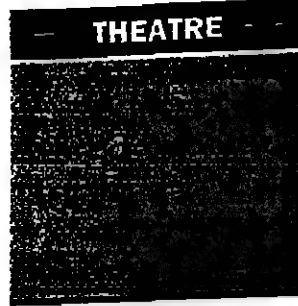


Star treatment: The Priory clinic was 1998's hip haven for recuperating celebrities



GALLERIES
Goya: France celebrates a Spanish master
THIS PAGE

THE TIMES ARTS



The madness of king Goya

VISUAL ART: In Lille, Richard Cork joins the young Matisse in being stunned by the dark side of genius

Early in 1892, the young Henri Matisse travelled north from Paris to meet his father at Lille. Their encounter, as ever, was hostile. Disappointed by his son's lack of success at art school, the father threatened to cut off the young man's allowance. Plagued by self-doubt, Matisse went to the city's Musée des Beaux-Arts. It was a momentous visit. "I believed I would never be able to paint," he recalled. "Then I saw the Goyas at Lille. That was when I understood that painting could be a language: I thought that I could become a painter."

The pair of major canvases Matisse saw there, at the age of 22, are among the most original and challenging images Goya produced. Their extraordinary freedom must have come as a revelation to a student stifled by the academicism of his teachers. He began to realise that a way forward might be found, even if Goya's unshackled approach was

wilder by far than anything Matisse had dared to attempt. The more astonishing of the two Goyas, a tall painting called *The Old Women or Time*, still holds its own among his other paintings now lent to Lille for a powerful exhibition. As the show's title indicates, *Goya: Un Regard Libre* stresses the most emancipated sides of his protean imagination. And nothing is more headlong than the canvas where two crones leer and cackle while the winged figure of Time lunges at them lethally from behind. Like many of Goya's darkest fantasies, this nightmarish hallucination was not painted in response to a commission. He produced it to satisfy a profoundly personal, reckless urge, born of long frustration at working to satisfy a deluge of requests from the Spanish monarchy, assorted grandees and the Church. A precociously successful artist, Goya had spent much of his youth executing fresco cycles and tapestry cartoons for

royal palaces. He was expected to adopt a decorative, courtly style in the extended cartoon series, and his exceptional facility enabled him to delight his patrons at will.

The opening room of the Lille survey includes outstanding examples from the early tapestry sequences. In *The Parasol*, lent by the Prado, an exquisitely dressed young woman lounges in the open air and waves a fan with a beckoning, bare forearm. Ignoring a man shielding her from the sun, she flirts with us as we admire her seductive allure. Throughout his life, Goya would prove adept at defining female beauty, above all in his provocative paintings of the Duchess of Alba. But the other tapestry pictures show just how broad his interests really were.

Chilled travellers huddle under cloaks as they struggle through a snowstorm. At the other seasonal extreme, farmworkers carouse and jostle as they celebrate a harvest. Boys shake pitchforks with alarming glee, for Goya had a fellow feeling for the unruly abandon of childhood. But there is scant sign of his later fascination with violence, apart from an unfamiliar painting of 1786-87 called *The Fall*. A well-dressed lady, whose horse lies prostrate on the ground, receives attention from a hump-backed doctor while her companions wail and deplore the accident. Even here, though, the incident looks more like a passage from a play than a real tragedy. The landscape resembles stage scenery, and only after a serious illness in 1793 would Goya start to explore the most troubled aspects of his complex temperament.

By now permanently deaf, the 47-year-old artist began to paint disturbing images of insanity, imprisonment and death. At the Madrid Academy, where he was appointed director of painting in 1795, Goya submitted "cabinet pictures", including a painting on tin plate called *The Madmen's Compound*. The bestial despair of its naked inmates must have appalled devotees of his more ingratiating work. But Goya now had no intention of evading his most unsettling, pessimistic concerns. They were far more important to him than the religious commissions that constitute the weakest part of his output.

The strangest room at Lille sets up a direct confrontation between saccharine biblical scenes on one wall and, on the other, small panels where cannibals dismember and consume their victims. Goya seems to have carried out his anaemic religious pictures in a dutiful spirit, excluding everything that we value most highly in his work. But the cannibal images unleash his private demons, and two paintings borrowed from Besançon still have the capacity to unnerve. In one, naked men rummage sickeningly inside a disembowelled corpse spread out on a rocky outcrop. Almost half the picture-surface is given over to



Goya's *The Old Women or Time* "could have been painted by Dix or Grosz in the most feverish years of the Weimar Republic"

emptiness, suggesting that the heinous ritual takes place on the very edge of the world. In the other scene, grimness gives way to an even more gruesome hilarity. The seated nude dominating the picture grins as he brandishes a severed hand and a decapitated head. Feasting is about to commence.

Nobody knows precisely when Goya painted these ghastly panels. But they were probably executed during the first decade of the 19th century, a time of terrible destruction and upheaval throughout Spain. In 1808 Charles IV, Goya's principal royal patron, abdicated. But his successor, Ferdinand VII, was detained at Bayonne by Napoleon and, after an uprising in Madrid, Joseph Bonaparte became the Spanish King. Goya was adaptable enough to be awarded the Royal Order of Spain by Bonaparte three years later, and yet the newly victorious Duke of Wellington would consider him the most suitable artist to paint his portrait in 1812. However expert Goya may

have been at the art of political survival, he remained uncompromising in his resolve to reflect the era of carnage in his most private paintings. He produced the haunting *Interior of a Prison*, its gloom lessened only by a dim, hazy light disclosing the wretchedness of the haggard men left to putrefy there. Manacled, dishevelled and stooped with exhaustion, they sit or lie around a wooden structure placed like a coffin beneath the arch. One of the smallest paintings in the show, this desolate image is the most searing.

Soon afterwards, Goya went on to explore the negation of death in a remarkably direct series of animal and bird pictures. The woodcocks assembled in one canvas belong to a tradition of dead game paintings extending back several centuries in European art. But Goya had no time now for the decorative flourishes that often accompanied such trophy pictures. The birds are heaped ignominiously in a deeply shadowed space, and the dead turkey-cock iso-

lated in another picture looks still more abject. Neck pushed up callously against a wicker basket, it has been dumped there by a killer who cared nothing for the bird's dignity. As for the sea bream piled on top of each other elsewhere in the series, they could hardly appear more disconsolate.

This is the antithesis of those boastful paintings intended to laud the hunting prowess of their owners. No angler would crow over such a melancholy catch, and Goya ensured that his painting of a sheep's head and carcass smacks more of the abattoir than of a duke's larder. Almost 200 years before Damien Hirst incorporated a rotting cow's head in one of his most notorious sculptures, Goya depicted this mutilated motion with a similar frankness.

At the same time, though, he continued to paint portraits of aristocrats exuding elegant aplomb. Flaunting a shapely thigh and calf, the Conde de Fernan Nunez preens himself

against a mountainous backdrop redolent of the Romantic period. As so often, Goya comes riskily close to satirising his sitter's peacock pretensions. But the portrait also sums up the confident stylishness of a young man who would soon become the Spanish Ambassador in London. Indeed, the portrait is strikingly similar to the young bucks painted by Thomas Lawrence during the same period.

In the end, however, Goya speaks to us most memorably in paintings as unfettered as the rancid canvas admired by Matisse. The two macabre hags in *The Old Women or Time*, with their scarlet-daubed eye-sockets, broken teeth and manic gazes, could easily have been painted by Otto Dix or George Grosz in the most feverish years of the Weimar Republic. Fiery, rasping, defiant and ready to flout every pictorial rulebook of his period, this is the Goya who makes our heartbeats accelerate today.

● Goya: *Un Regard Libre*, Palais des Beaux-Arts, Lille 59003 320067001 until March 14

AROUND THE GALLERIES

IT IS A pity that visitors are not supposed to touch, because Tony Cragg's new sculptures at the Lisson Gallery tease the tactile sense. The swollen curves and tapering lines of *Valve*, plumped upon the floor like a fallen seed pod, invite one to stroke them. I watched other visitors approaching *Secretions*, its slack bulges coiling like an untidy cobra. The first instinct was to reach out and run a hand over the folded, rubbly surface which is made of thousands of discs.

In a different way, the spiky, vitreous waves of *Pacific's* glittering sea of bottles or *Cumulus's* exquisitely balanced tower of frosted glass vessels tempt one to test their fragility with a finger. But this sensuous temptation is counteracted by the machine-like forms of the bronzes. A piece such as *Dingle*, its corkscrewing lip curled into a hard smile or a sneer, seems to push the viewer away.

Such visceral responses are a clear indication of Cragg's fluency as he explores the ideas that link or distinguish different forms and materials. Those who respond naturally to his sculpture will look forward to next April, when he has been commissioned to work for the show window space of the Royal Academy courtyard.

32-34 Bell St, London NW1 0J1 (0171-724 2739), until Feb 6

GIN AN art world where conceptual and installation pieces so often take precedence, Boukamel Contemporary has a refreshing array of talented painters in its stable. Its end-of-year show offers a fine opportunity to see a selection. Upstairs are the splashed gladioli of Rainer Fetting, the lambent tulips of Jounama Mourad, their bright colours all the bolder when set off by the clean-cut steel pieces of E.R. Nele which cut their gaunt shadows against white walls. Downstairs the work is less easy on the eye. A bruised face by Ken Currie seeps out of shadow, while Philip Braham captures mood and romance in landscape.

9 Cork St, W1 0J1-734 6444 until Jan 15

□ WHAT does family mean to you? This was the question asked by *i-D* magazine. Family Future Positive charts the answers in a hotchpotch of photographs, projections, drawings and running sheets published in the current edition of the magazine and now exhibited at the Proud Galleries. From the patch-eyed bull terrier of Alexander McQueen, through wedding-day snapshots and family line-ups, to homosexuals and hip young teenagers out on the town, this is a restless, multifaceted, futuristic portrait.

5 Buckingham St, WC2 0J1-839 4942, to Jan 30

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A year for puritans and vultures

Michael Gove ventures his political predictions for 1999

The crystal ball is an incongruous addition to my desk. Anyone who has written a book entitled *Michael Gove: the Future of the Right* cannot expect an easy ride as a forecaster. But this week I should like to try. At least, I may console myself, I never attempted a biography of Robin Cook, or even Peter Mandelson.

Mr Mandelson's body on the gibe may well act as a warning to anyone attempting to discern the future. But the manner of his going will shape the year ahead in certain ways. A chapter in the life of this Government has closed, one written in lavender.

The giddy period of liberal exultation, comparable in its way to the liberation of Paris in 1944, is over. Those on the social democrat wing of the Labour Party will have to downplay the social and accentuate the democrat.

The Government, in an attempt to reassert its seriousness, will take a more puritan turn. Expect to see Jack Straw assume a more prominent role, memories of how he handled domestic scandal last Christmas only reinforcing his ascendancy.

Prepare also for an even more visible Gordon Brown. As the economy turns down, Mr Blair will be anxious not to see his reputation go with it. So the Chancellor can be expected to assume the role played by policemen in Christmas episodes of *Casualty* — the grim bearer of bad news.

Mr Brown will be under particular pressure from three areas next year. The Parliamentary Labour Party will object to the flawed and partial welfare reforms. The City should object to the blatant complacency of its spending plans as growth declines. And Miss Sarah Macaulay will object to the Virgin-style delays on her journey to the altar. Mr Brown will want to marry in Scotland. And his festivities won't be Labour's last north of the border. In the first elections to the new Scottish assembly Labour will emerge as the largest party. Which will please Mr Blair, and delight the Scottish nationalist Alex Salmond even more.

Mr Salmond has made an art form of opposition; he is the Frank Sinatra of discontent, possessed of perfect political pitch and capable of making clichés bite as never before. On every occasion the Scottish parliament makes a difference, he will argue that independence could have made it more telling. And on those occasions when the Scottish parliament cannot act, when hospitals close, schools fail and factories flee, he will argue with even greater passion that an independent Scotland could have made the difference. Not a sparrow will fall but Westminster will be blamed for tying Edinburgh hands. After four years of devotion, Scots will be thirsty for greater autonomy. Even if the Scots aren't.

another minority will be. The Liberal Democrats will be gasping for freedom. If, as expected, the party allies with Labour in the Scottish assembly, much as its leader wishes to do at Westminster, then a formidable price will be paid. Those rural voters, predominantly disaffected Conservatives, who have sustained the Lib Dems so far, will grow miffed. It is no coincidence that those Lib Dems most suspicious of cosying up to Mr Blair, Malcolm Bruce and Charles Kennedy, are both Scots. The sound Paddy Ashdown can hear above him in Kosovo this winter is not the UN helicopter but the vultures circling.

They have squawked already this year over Smith Square. But William Hague has seen them off. While Mr Blair has been weakened by the resignation of one intriguer, Mr Hague has been strengthened by the sacking of another. The breach with Robert Cranborne was a sad farewell to a distinguished warrior. But it was a necessary break. Viscount Cranborne was the Tories' General Pétain. Like the general, in 1940, he despised of the values of his own side, and saw the enemy as irresistible. Like the general, he consented to the carving up of his patrimony in order to preserve a portion of it, apparently inviolate. But the lingering remnants of the hereditary peerage, the Vichy Lords, would have been, like Pétain's Government, a puppet creation to be dispensed with at the enemy's pleasure. Mr Hague, like General de Gaulle, has refused to contemplate defeat. That is the inevitable precondition of victory.

Next year will not be easy. The coming in of being of Welsh, Scottish and Ulster assemblies will create pressure for an English nationalist response. Expected victories in local elections will embolden party reactionaries who believe that the electorate, not the Tories, got it wrong in 1997. And the emergence of sleaze as an issue which can tarnish Labour as effectively as it did the Tories will also encourage the drabber *fonctionnaires* of the Conservative Party into believing that Labour will do their work for them. But if the Tories are ever to win convincingly, they must start to develop a convincing anti-Government ideology, to give voters something to believe in again. Which brings me to Michael Portillo.

It is in both Mr Portillo's interest, and Mr Hague's, that the former Defence Secretary does not stand in any by-election next year, or the year after that. He should wait until the general election before inviting the electorate to pass judgment on him. He would make a fine Foreign Secretary in a Hague Government. And a better subject for a new biographer than the current incumbent.

Michael Gove is a writer and journalist. He is currently a senior editor at the *Times*. He can be contacted at michael.gove@the-times.co.uk



— AFTER A NIGHT ON THE TOWN WITH GEOFFREY —

With friends like these

Mandelson has exposed the dangers of Labour's mutual admiration society

If I had to choose between betraying my country and betraying my friend, I hope I should have the guts to betray my country. He meant to shock, like all good polemicists, but sets up a quiver of uneasy, universal truth. Most of us have compromised a principle out of loyalty to a friend. If it is a big principle it often dooms the friendship; but only the sternest never do it at all. Closing ranks is a gut instinct.

Which is why, especially at this season, there is fascination in the case of Peter Mandelson, Geoffrey Robinson, Tony Blair and the magic inner circles of new Labour. Christmas is much touted as a time for families, and so it is. But it is also a time which focuses all kinds of friendship. There are the closest friends, by your fireside in the central days; then there are the ones you miss in this fortnight because custom dictates that you see relatives instead. Beyond that, a distant cadre of treasured names on cards from far away; old friends of youth, new friends whose importance will grow. There are friends who share your vision and others who disagree about everything except that you must have lunch again soon. There are people nobody else can stand, and others who form an entangled part of a triangle or circle.

The Mandelson affair has been all about friendship, and brought home forcibly the fact that it is not only romantic love which has its perils. It was instructive to read the defences mounted at the weekend by those who are fond of the former Secretary of State and loyal to him. All of them managed to miss the point entirely. "Unwise," said Mr Blair. "And he paid a heavy price... a tragedy for him personally." Others chimed in: Carla Powell with a moving account of the hard-working Mandelson's hours of dedication fuelled only on hot water and lemon, Derek Draper on his friend's "vulnerability", and Robert Harris, who sounds the nicest of them all, on the man his children called "the Secretary-in-a-state", the *habitué de la maison* who is not corrupt but merely "too colourful, clever and exotic for his own good". Only a shameful "skinhead" press, he writes indignantly, could so pulverise Mr Mandelson.

Hmm. With the hood of friendship over the eyes, there are things which cannot be spotted even by the usually

clear-sighted Robert Harris (since you ask — no, he is not a friend of mine). What none of them can see, through the veil of mutually protective affectionate arrogance, is how bad the whole thing looked from outside when the news broke last week of Mr Robinson's secret loan. Beyond the charmed circle of new Labour intimates, jaws genuinely dropped and real gasps were heard.

"Oh God," people said. "So that's it. That must be why Blair can't seem to shift off Robinson. In spite of all the embarrassment, he's bought them all." "How many more?" asked others. "Who and what else is the Paymaster paying for?" The frenzy of

lead the very ministry which is engaged in a serious investigation into the business dealings of the lender? What procedural "insulation" can possibly be adequate to the subject of the £373,000 that lies between them? Were the devil servants on the inquiry not entitled to know, as rumours passed to and fro, that their minister's friendship with Geoffrey Robinson was so very thoroughly old? No, sorry; it stank. It shocked. It unerved.

Not does Mr Blair come out of this very convincingly. With that little laugh of his regal yet boyish, he slapped down Eddie Mair on Radio 4 on Sunday with: "Well, Eddie, I really don't go around asking my Cabinet members how they paid for their house. I have never been to the particular house." Oh yes? Well, nor have I, but as an ordinary, vaguely curious, newspaper-reading member of the middle classes, I was aware even before the election of the Notting Hill splendour in which Mr Mandelson lives. Driving by, we had wondered whether he had family money. ("No," said a grumpy husband. "But he hasn't got a wife and children, either.")

Mr Blair tried to face down the interviewer by talking of his higher preoccupation with the welfare of Gulf bomber pilots and saying: "You know, I have an awful lot that comes across my desk." But friends in his class and type all talk incessantly about their house deals; and when this particular deal was done — a new home for his close, close friend, a man close enough to stay with his family the night of the resignation — Blair was not even Prime Minister. He had not yet had to make the decision to elevate his friend to a position of high trust. Clearly, he asked no questions before he did. As the proverb goes: "Love is blind, friendship closes its eyes." It is possible to honour Mr Blair for his loyalty, while regretting that his eyes were quite so firmly closed.

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Tested to the limits

Challenge is a vital need, says Robin Knox-Johnston

The tragic loss of life in the Sydney to Hobart race, including that of the Olympic sailor Glyn Charles, inevitably raises questions about the safety of ocean racing and whether yachtsmen are gratuitously risking their own lives as well as those involved in the rescue services.

The race was established to be the southern hemisphere's equivalent of the Fastnet race. It covers almost exactly the same distance and is designed to test yachts and crews. Like any ocean race, it is subject to all weather conditions and, although both races take place in their hemisphere's summer, we know from the Fastnet in 1979 that these can include gales and, occasionally, storms.

Ocean racing is more than just a competition between human beings on boats. Though, for sailors, the main purpose is to beat other competitors, they have chosen to do so in an arena where nature, in its most violent manifestation, becomes the real competition. If occasionally tragedies occur, it is because sport is all about pushing oneself to the limits, and we can never discover where those margins lie unless we strive in the toughest competition. This always involves risk.

The Sydney to Hobart race has a bad record of foul weather because it takes place right on the edge of the Southern Ocean, the huge cold, vicious area of emptiness where the waves can roll right around the world. There, without any land barriers to break their development, there is nothing to check the build-up of weather systems, which is why it is the region of the strongest sustained winds on the sea surface anywhere and where the largest waves are to be found.

It is the place where nature can be its most violent, pushing millions of tons of water up into enormous waves that stretch from horizon to horizon, while rushing forward at more than 30 knots. The sight is awesome and terrifying.

Off Australia, the dangers are augmented by a south-running current down the eastern coast, which, when it encounters a strong easterly, known locally as the Southerly Buster, produces waves that can become extremely short and steep — the most dangerous situation for a small boat.

This is what has happened on this occasion and, as conditions deteriorated, many of the sailors judged that both crews and boats had reached their limits. More than half of the fleet sensibly decided to withdraw and head for shelter. This decision is made by skippers, because they are the people on the spot. It is not for the race organiser to cancel the race, because he is not aboard.

Sailing is a safe sport, statistically, for the millions who participate. But its safety record is achieved by training and gathering experience. Seamanship cannot be learnt from books; it is a hands-on skill. To become good seamen, people must sail out to the oceans and study the wind and waves and the reaction of a boat to both. If we start to ban difficult races, or cancel them at the whim of a bad weather forecast, we are not just encouraging a lowering in standards, we are ensuring that the quality of seamanship will fall.

Glyn Charles was aboard the *Sword of Orion*, which had already withdrawn from the race and was heading back under storm sails. The crew was not under any time pressure and could adjust the boat's course to provide the easiest motion. Nevertheless, the yacht was caught by a particularly mean wave. Some waves simply cannot be avoided and Glyn, who was on the helm and harnessed to the boat, was swept over the side. It is a tragic loss, but we can be certain that it will not be the last such loss.

Tough races are popular simply because they are demanding. No one enters them thinking they are going to get into trouble, but they know that the oceans can be extremely dangerous, and therein lies the challenge. There is no satisfaction in achieving something easy; a challenge has to be hard and risky for it to be worthwhile. Human beings are programmed to rise to challenges — this is why we are at the top of the evolutionary tree.

For many of us, a life without mental and physical challenges would be a life without colour or stimulus. We react in differing ways according to our characters — some people climb mountains, some try to balloon around the world. And those who feel the call of the sea, search for the hardest races. It is because they want to stand a little taller than their friends who have not competed in such a tough event. They also want the satisfaction of knowing that they have achieved something special. The greater risk adds the spice, makes the adrenalin course, the eyes brighter, the senses fully alert. Yes, it is dangerous, but it brings real meaning to living. If society wants to bar mankind from such stimulation, then the whole human species might, as well be castrated.

Sir Robin was the first person to sail solo, non-stop around the world.

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In brief...

WHO provides Peter Mandelson's briefs? I do not mean the documents drafted by Whitehall types, rather the source of the former Trade Secretary's smalls. After admitting to free flights and hospitality from America's largest underwear manufacturer, Mandelson is now to be questioned as to whether his underwear is also a gift. As head of the Warnaco Group, Linda Wachner makes fashionable Calvin Klein boxers (right), and Wendy is notorious for his snappy dressing: only a chosen few realise his magnificent demeanour is often underpinned by a pair of the elegant briefs.

John Redwood's office, which has been raising questions about Wachner's largesse towards Mandelson, is now urging the former minister to come clean. John Berrow, the Tory MP and aide to the Shadow Trade Minister, says: "While I have no personal interest in his choice of underwear, it would avert future embarrassment if he were to make a full disclosure."

I hope Elizabeth Filkin, the new Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, does not end up having to check Mandelson's labels.

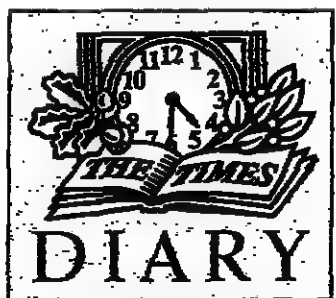
ANGELA LANSBURY suffered the worst moment of her life when her first husband, Richard Cromwell, walked out on her after less than a year of marriage because he was a homosexualist. "I was absolutely shattered," she



admits in her new biography. "Everyone knew it but me."

On the move

BARONESS THATCHER'S neighbour is on the move. Lord Hindlip, the Christie's director who placed a protective hand over the backside of Diana, Princess of Wales, last year, is selling his house in Chester Square for £7 million. Thatcher has owned a property in the same square since 1991 and



has entertained her close friends therein, including General Augustus to Pinchock. Whether her taste in chums is to blame for her house being valued far more modestly is something I leave you, dear reader, to ponder.

THE intellectual rigour of Liberal Democrat MPs. Bob Russell asked a public meeting: "Why is it that cauliflowers do not taste the same today as they did when I was a small boy?" The politician received an appropriate response: "Once you reach a certain age your taste buds, like all your other faculties, decline."

Trust them

THE poor old National Trust has come under fire once again from Roger Scruton. After complaining

about its ban on stag hunting, the lively writer on countryside matters has attacked the organisation for an obsession with interior decorations.

"The unconscious muddle of a family household gives way to an 'authentic' interior, conducted by a fashionable Chelsea decorator," Scruton tells me. "But the design is not concocted for anyone. The decorator does not paper over the traces of one life in order to prepare it for another but to extinguish life for ever. His task is to create not a home, but a museum."

Scruton is robustly supported by families who have had to hand



"By Mr Brown, not in the lobby, with a leak"

over their old piles to the trust. "The major difference is that a curator lives in one part of the house and the rest of the building is left shuttered," says Felicity Waley-Cohen, whose family moved out of Upton House, near Banbury, in 1948. "The trust has no personality, it's a bureaucracy."

Thankfully, the decorations at Diary Towers remain firmly under my own control.

STEPHEN FRY'S newest scribbles promise to be as exotic as his past. A friend who has read an early draft of the comedian's newest manuscript tells me: "I'll never be able to think of a lamb curry in the same way again." Since an adolescent boy became a wee bit too matey with a horse in Fry's earlier work, *The Hippopotamus*, I shudder to think what can be in store for us this time round.

No-go zone

ANTHEA TURNER (right) has been saved from a mosquito-ridden trip to Burma by Derek Fatchett. The *Wish You Were Here* team planned to film a Christmas special from the Asian country until the Foreign Minister stepped in. He urged the television travellers to boycott the country because it is run by dodgy military types



who give the angelic Aung San Suu Kyi a hard time. Fatchett's chaps tell me that, after the minister's intervention, Anthea's colleagues wrote back to say they would keep clear. The junta in Rangoon would appreciate the minister's influence over the British media.

TO MAKE it into the Dictionary of National Biography, due out in 2004, potential participants must die before the end of 1999. The closing date for the next edition.

JASPER GERARD

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STRAW POLL

The Home Secretary outlines a strong election commission

Exactly one year ago Jack Straw was at the centre of a storm concerning his son's apparent willingness to acquire cannabis for an undercover reporter. The manner in which the Home Secretary dealt with that affair left his already notable reputation enhanced, not diminished. After a week dominated once again by ministerial misdemeanours with much more damaging consequences for the Government, some of Mr Straw's colleagues would do well to reflect on the virtues of the quiet-but-firm application of common sense and openness to personal and political problems that the Home Secretary has demonstrated.

In his interview with *The Times* today, Mr Straw covers a broad cross-section of his responsibilities. The most revealing aspects of his remarks concern the proposed election commission, recommended by the Neill committee in October and destined to be the centrepiece of a radical new system for the funding of politics in this country. The Home Secretary seeks to expand the commission's remit to include measures aimed at increasing electoral turnout and to clarify the rules applying to future referendums. This is likely to be outlined in a draft White Paper scheduled to be published during this parliamentary session.

The proposal to place the promotion of electoral turnout and civic education more broadly within the ambit of the election commission avoids the danger of different government agencies struggling to control this initiative. The use of an independent, non-partisan, institution will also soothe the concerns of those who approve of additional civic education in principle but have fears about how it might be distorted if placed too close to politicians' control in practice.

The real issue of low turnout must also be addressed. This is not, though, primarily

a dilemma at the national level. The modest 72 per cent participation at the last general election reflected an especially long campaign whose final outcome was hardly in doubt. In the very different context of the 1992 ballot, turnout was 6 per cent higher. The picture at local elections, however, is uniformly miserable. Whether the commission can reinvigorate interest here without a real decentralisation of power and funding to elected mayors or meaningful councils, to which Mr Straw alludes, must be highly debatable.

The Home Secretary is also right to render more precise the Neill committee's recommendations on referendums. These were meant to make clear that although ministers acting as party politicians would play a central part in any contest, the Government itself should not produce allegedly factual information that will inevitably be seen as an attempt to influence the electorate. This distinction was not made particularly plain in the original Neill document. Mr Straw seems more willing than some other Cabinet members to accept the spirit of its suggestions and prevent the Government from acting as both umpire and player.

If legislation proceeds along the lines that Mr Straw suggests then it should be possible to achieve maximum party consensus and minimum political controversy. An election commission, irrespective of its size and scope, cannot by itself produce campaigns that are models of civility and exemplary practice: it will still be dealing with politicians. But there is at least every chance that the organisation which does eventually emerge from the Home Office will start life with near universal backing. After all, at the end of week dominated by the internecine warfare of his Cabinet colleagues, the Home Secretary has shown himself to be one of the few ministers still focused on the pursuit of solid policy.

ROCKET MAN

Wernher von Braun and the morality of science

The 1940s were the cruellest decade the world has ever seen. The Second World War killed an estimated 50 million people. Yet like every conflict, it brought extraordinary advances in science and learning. The finest minds were turned to creating, and countering, new engines of destruction, and huge state resources were harnessed to forcing back the frontiers of physics and engineering.

Few men exemplify the evil of the times, the moral amnesia and the subsequent redirection of knowledge acquired for battle as Wernher von Braun, the German engineer who designed and built the deadly V2 rockets for Hitler. At 18 he began conducting experiments with liquid fuelled rockets. With a band of talented but impecunious enthusiasts he formed the Verein für Raumschiffahrt (Spacecraft Travel Club), which launched its early efforts from a disused arsenal near Berlin. By 1932 the German Army had begun to take a close interest, and the group was offered funds, equipment and skilled labour; Hitler's ascension to power further enhanced the rocketeers' prospects. Operations moved to Peenemünde on the Baltic coast in 1937, and by 1938 von Braun had developed the A4 missile, the prototype of the V2, with a range of 11 miles. His work was curtailed in 1940 when Hitler diverted resources from missile research to the Luftwaffe. He was briefly arrested by Himmler, but in 1943 Hitler again gave priority to the Vergeltungswaffe 2 (Revenge Weapon 2).

The first missiles were ready for action in 1944. The V2 came too late in the war to change its outcome. But it was a formidable weapon, years ahead of anything

conceived by the Allies. Propelled by liquid oxygen and alcohol, it weighed nearly 12 tons at take-off and could carry a one-ton warhead 200 miles, ascending to heights of 70 miles and achieving a speed of 3,500 miles an hour. As Germany collapsed in spring 1945, von Braun had to choose which of her conquerors should benefit from his work. He and his team fled south to the Americans. The entire operation was transferred to Huntsville, Alabama; von Braun became an American citizen; and his work led to the 150,000lb-thrust Saturn V rocket and, in 1969, to man's first landing on the Moon. Honours and degrees were heaped on him by the very nations he tried to destroy — though London (bombarded by V2s) kept its distance.

But these successes hid the fact that like most Nazi advances, Braun's scientific knowledge was poisoned fruit. The captured V2 technology was so vital in giving the West a head start over Moscow that the horrors of the underground slave labour workshops, where the weapons were assembled were suppressed. No V2 scientists were ever prosecuted, and von Braun himself was never confronted with the knowledge that he had willingly used the atrocities of Nazism to advance his projects. In later years he occasionally spoke of the moral neutrality of science, arguing unconvincingly that scientists could not be held responsible for the misuse of their work. He died in 1977, having accurately forecast the future of manned space flight. He was lucky to live in such a turbulent decade: war gave him his chance, and the Cold War glossed over the consequences. More questions would have been asked today.



PEOPLE OF THE CENTURY

THE DOMINIONS OF DEATH

Cemeteries could become sanctuaries for wildlife

Death's dominion need not be gloomy. Some of the greatest wonders of the world — the Great Pyramid of Cheops, for example, or the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus — were built for funeral purposes. Cemeteries such as Highgate or San Cataldo serve as tourist attractions. Visitors find peace in quiet gardens of stone. But this contemplative purpose is too often neglected by the charnel crematoriums of an industrial age. In the hands of an unimaginative funeral industry, the graveyard becomes a harsh and unappealing place, which is why the public should welcome the enterprise of John Acton, the Essex farmer who has turned to the dead to make himself a living. He has transformed seven drab acres of arable land into a nature reserve that doubles up as a burial site. People who buy plots there also plant a tree, choosing from the oak or the ash, the black poplar, field maple or hornbeam or native English woodland. In choosing Oakfield Wood cemetery as a burial place, they can rest assured in the knowledge that they are helping to create a beautiful landscape in which wildlife might flourish and future generations find pleasure.

Oakfield Wood rejects the mass-market, modern cemetery for more pastoral English tradition. In the preface to his

elegy *Adonais*, Shelley writes of a visit to John Keats's tomb. There he found solace in the wild flowers, the violets and daisies which clambered among the ruins. "It might make one in love with death, to think that one should be buried in so sweet a place," Shelley wrote. This Romantic attitude to death is what schemes such as Mr Acton's might reawaken more widely in Britain today.

The potential of graveyards has been too often neglected. Green glass chips save on grass-tending costs, polished granite headstones prevent the creeping growth of lichen, artificial flowers fade and fall over. But, scattered through every town and village of Britain, these dead spaces could be made fruitful. They should become a part of the fabric of the natural environment and the community. The cemeteries of Britain should be recreated as areas of natural beauty. Amid seas of herbicide-sprayed crops, cowslips, hellebores and primroses, could find a haven in every village churchyard. Linnets, yellow hammers and corn buntings might thrive and nest, and beetles and butterflies breed undisturbed. And in the middle of even the busiest cities, beleaguered wildlife could find protection, even as city-dwellers find repose and peaceful memories.

Power, place and Peter Mandelson

From Mr Keith Simpson, MP for Mid Norfolk (Conservative)

Sir: It was indeed ironic that on December 22, the day Peter Mandelson was forced to resign from the Government, you decided to profile Reginald Brett, the 2nd Viscount Esher, under "People of the Century".

Quite rightly, you emphasised that Lord Esher exercised influence through an unusual combination of charisma, intelligence and loyalty. An Edwardian eminence grise, he could be compared to the former Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

However, unlike Peter Mandelson, Lord Esher, having briefly served as a Liberal MP, decided he did not like the Liberal and tumble of party politics and preferred to exercise his undoubted influence away from political and public office and behind closed doors. Unlike Peter Mandelson, he recognised that it is almost impossible to operate as an eminence grise from of stage.

It remains to be seen whether Mr Mandelson can disprove Lord Esher's saying that "Power and Place are not often synonymous".

Yours faithfully,
KEITH SIMPSON,
House of Commons.
December 24.

From Mr Nick Vinehill

Sir, Peter Mandelson's resignation is a fitting and refreshing development for a Labour Party which has for too long been blighted by the corruptive influence of underminism.

His transactions, combined with other unrelated scandals such as the Formula One affair, epitomise how new Labour's "election-winning" strategy was no more than a capitulation to the global economic system that was characterised by the turmoil on the financial markets earlier this year. They also expose how the small clique of business-friendly, image-conscious new Labour executives who administer policy are out of touch with the aspirations of many Labour voters and of the Labour movement as a whole.

As long as these Mandelson archetypes remain at the helm, "misjudgments" like this will be as endemic to this Government as they were to the last. Hopefully, Mr Mandelson's departure, along with worsening economic problems, may trigger a leftward thrust for Labour that will end the wretched, bipartisan consensus which has inhibited the voicing of real arguments for change.

Yours faithfully,
NICK VINEHILL,
3 Manor Lane,
Snettisham, Norfolk PE31 7NH.
December 28.

From Mr John Pincham

Sir, The Mandelson/Robinson affair highlights the demands of high politics, which leave little time for earning money. A terrace house, with space to work, near Parliament in "fashionable" London, costs as much as a country mansion in the North. Emmeshed in the fray, personal matters may be neglected.

For county councillors one must recruit from the rich, retired and redundant, or from those few with paid jobs which can be abandoned when the county calls.

All elections depend to a large extent on the physical effort and financial support of a few elderly volunteers, while those for counties, boroughs, districts and parishes are denied even a free post. Beguiled into joining a party, one is forever bombarded with pleas for money.

Are things better organised in other countries?
Yours faithfully,
JOHN PINCHAM
(Surrey County Councillor),
35 Lodge Close,
Stoke D'Abernon, Surrey KT11 2SG.
December 26.

From Mr Anthony Nelson

Sir, Neither a borrower nor a lender be.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY NELSON
(Minister of State, HM Treasury, 1994-95, and Department of Trade and Industry, 1995-97),
The Old Vicarage, Easbourne,
Midhurst, West Sussex GU29 0AL.
December 24.

Pleasing response

From Mr Pat Buckley

Sir, My recent retirement from teaching has given me the chance to pay more attention to your newspaper. I do not wish to seem uncouth, but you offer each day reports, articles and letters that are informative, stimulating and witty — in exaggerated abundance. This is too good to be good. When am I to learn the besom, read Prose or paint the house?

I have also become aware of the modest scope of my wife's daily activities (she is unwaged). I believe you have a heavy responsibility for her indolence and the frustration of my own ambitions. Perhaps you will enable fellow-sufferers to advise.

Yours faithfully,
P. BUCKLEY,
Springhill Farm,
Gorsley, Ross-on-Wye HR9 7SP.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Rights of audience for salaried CPS lawyers

From Professor Michael Zander, QC

Sir, In the Lord Chancellor's defence of his proposal to give salaried CPS lawyers full rights of audience in the Crown Court (letter, December 17; see also Sir Michael Ogden's letter, December 8) he argues that they will be sufficiently independent of their employers. My own view is that he is mistaken on this vital question.

The problem is nothing to do with the quality or integrity of the lawyers. It is to do with the institutional and bureaucratic pressures that arise unavoidably from being an employee of an organisation. The Access to Justice Bill tries to address the matter in a provision stating that every advocate "has a duty to the court to act in the interests of justice" which overrides any inconsistent duty — for instance to an employer.

But those are mere words. They are unlikely to exercise much sway over CPS lawyer employees concerned with performance targets set by their line managers. The CPS as an organisation is constantly under pressure in regard to the proportion of discontinuances, acquittal and conviction rates. These are factors in the day-to-day work of every CPS lawyer. It is disingenuous to imagine that they do not have a powerful effect on decision-making.

In the Crown Court Study I conducted for the Runciman Royal Commission on Criminal Justice during 1993, we asked respondents to bring to the attention of the commission any matter of concern. The main general concern identified by prosecution barristers was disagreements with and undue pressure from the CPS on individual cases.

At present such disagreements and pressure are dealt with by discussion between the barrister and the CPS representative. If the CPS has and

exercises full rights of audience that creative tension between differing views will be lost. The decision as to how to handle the case, whether to accept a plea and, if so, to what charges, etc., will be handled by the CPS alone.

In my view, that will result in a regrettable deterioration of decision-making in serious criminal cases. The loss will be in the quality of that elusive concept, justice.

Yours etc,
MICHAEL ZANDER,
12 Woodside Avenue, N6 4SS.
December 18.

From Mr B. H. Slater

Sir, The Lord Chancellor and I share a common heritage — he was a few years ahead of me at school in Glasgow. The reasoning which he advances for employing CPS barristers in the Crown Court would have dismayed our common teachers.

He states that if an independent barrister is sacked by his client (and, by implication, is not paid) there is no form of redress. On the contrary, the redress is the most powerful known to a professional man: if the solicitor does not pay the barrister's fee he is reported to the Bar Council, will be disallowed credit by barristers throughout the country and severely disciplined by the Office for the Supervision of Solicitors. No wonder barristers do not want or need a formal contract with their clients.

I have worked as defence duty solicitor in the magistrates' court for 15 years. Any CPS prosecutor will tell you how important it is that trials are won, that records are kept and that a major factor in promotion is the ability to secure convictions.

To be sacked by a client can scarcely be paralleled with being sacked by an

employer. A barrister in private practice has a vast range of clientele; sacked by one client he moves on to the next. A sacking by the employer, the CPS, is the end of the barrister's entire relationship with the party that holds the purse strings.

Cases are regularly taken to the Crown Court judge so that fine points of law can be argued. In the wharfbarn of the magistrates' court these subtleties are lost or never put. I have no doubt that removing the independence of prosecuting counsel in the Crown Court will change the entire nature of justice in this country, and the public will never know.

Yours sincerely,
B. H. SLATER,
Slater Links (solicitors),
22-24 Broad Street,
Bury, Lancashire BL9 0DA.

From Mr John Snell

Sir, During a part of each year I see the higher criminal courts in action in South Australia. Salaried prosecutors there perform their duties with total integrity and professionalism. But their system is superior to ours, not least because there are fewer cases and more careful preparation by the police and the prosecuting authorities. Here, it is the increasing sloppiness in that process against which the independent barrister is the principal bulwark.

The judges know this. Bad faith seldom comes into it. Lord Irvine cannot say that standards in the higher courts will improve with salaried prosecutors. Better advocacy should be the only criterion for change.

Yours ever,
JOHN SNELL
(Head of Chambers),
27 New Walk, Leicester LE1 6TE.
December 17.

South Bank sounds

From Mr J. B. MacGill

Sir, I am very glad to see the poor quality of the acoustics in the Royal Festival Hall being publicised (letters, December 11 and 17) because, in pre-concert open discussions, I have often heard this confirmed by musicians who regularly play in concerts there. The same applies to the Barbican Hall, at which I am told that musicians are unable to hear themselves play.

Last month, I heard the managing director of one of our top orchestras state, also at a pre-concert talk, that he was ashamed to invite soloists to play with his orchestra at the Barbican for this reason. They would only come to play there, he said, if they were also promised concerts at the new halls in Birmingham and Manchester.

Why are we preserving the Barbican and the RFH as listed buildings when they are patently not fit for their purpose? Why does London have no large concert hall in which an orchestra wants to play?

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
J. B. MacGILL,
The Wilderness, St George's Lane,
Ascot, Berkshire SL5 7ES.
December 17.

From Mr John B. Harris

Sir, I was in a test audience at the Royal Festival Hall when a revolver was fired (Mr Michael Lea's letter, December 17). When real performances began, my friends and nearly all the music critics in the press agreed that it was not quite like the Queen's Hall, it was very good and vastly better than the Albert Hall as it then was.

For Ernest Newman of *The Sunday Times*, the hall was one of the works of the Socialist Government, and so had to be damned. "Music," he wrote, "was never meant to be heard as clearly as this" (for words to that effect).

Yours faithfully,
JOHN B. HARRIS,
15 Chantwell House,
12 Ludbrook Terrace, W11 3PG.
December 17.

Branson's glasses

From Professor Alec Eden

Sir, At the end of the Sixties I was involved in research into one of the oldest phenomena known to induce sleep — monotony. The results were presented at the European Congress on Sleep Research held in Varna, Bulgaria, in 1972, as a scientific report entitled *Acoustic and visual monotony stimuli in the induction of sleep*. An electronic apparatus incorporating hearing headphones and spectacles with light-emitting diodes was later manufactured under licence by a German medical instrument company. The success of this device was limited by the necessity to wear an uncomfortable headpiece in bed.

I was surprised — some 30 years later — to read the report by your Science Editor (December 23) headed "The hi-tech glasses that put Branson to sleep", on the use of "pulsed light and sound fed to his eyes and ears to stimulate the patterns of sleep".

Does the fact that Richard Branson uses something automatically make it "hi-tech"?

Yours sincerely,
ALEC EDEN,
The Thatched House,
Mead Road, Torquay TQ2 6TF.
December 22.

Iraq diplomacy

From Mr Ivor Lucas

Sir, Your assessment in today's leader, "Diplomatic offensive", of the diplomatic fallout from Desert Fox claims that "much more important" than hostile street demonstrations are certain private assurances from Arab leaders.

Maybe, in the short term — though even that is debatable. In the long run it is more likely that those friendly regimes which the bombing was in part intended to protect against Saddam Hussein will be weakened internally. Their close association with Western governments which have attacked Iraq but failed to deliver on the "peace process" will (rightly or wrongly) be seen by their own people as a dereliction of their Arab duty.

It will not be the first time that Western policies in the Middle East have backfired, but we never seem to learn the lesson.

Yours faithfully,
IVOR LUCAS
(Head of Middle East Department,
Foreign and Commonwealth
Office, 1975-79),
65 Newstead Way, SW19 5HR.
December 22.

From Mr Michael Travers-Drapes

Sir, In the debate on whether it is morally justified to bomb an evil tyrant when there is a strong possibility that innocent civilians will be killed, are we not forgetting the racial element?

The people of Iraq are in the same position as hostages. I have no doubt that if there were any danger of sub-

Utterance at fault

From Mr John Davis

Sir, In his review of Simon Heffer's biography of Enoch Powell (Books, December 17) Robert Shepherd points out the "error" of Powell making "the Roman" rather than the Sybil (sic) foresee "the river Tiber foaming with much blood". Virgil's hero Aeneas is, however, never described by the poet as Roman, as Powell would have known: he is Trojan Aeneas, whose mission is to found the Roman race.

"The Roman" is surely Virgil himself (despite the strange Biffen story) — the "Roman Virgil" of Petronius and Tennyson, who gave the prophetic her faithful words. On the subject of error, Shepherd's spelling assigns this apocalyptic vision, not to Virgil's seer, but to the wife of Basil Fawlty.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN DAVIS,
79 Wellesley Avenue, Richings Park,
Buckinghamshire SL0 9BP.
December 17.

Winter clean-up

From Mrs José Fernández

Sir, Coming late to the table for several meals my husband said he was busy defragmenting his computer. When asked to explain, he said he was tidying up his hard disk and rearranging the bits and pieces in a more orderly state.

I have asked him to defragment the garage after Christmas.

Yours,
ROSEMARY FERNANDEZ,
45 Cumberland,
Kenley, Surrey CR8 5DX.
December 22.

stantial European casualties (never mind British) as a result of this action the raids would not have taken place. Are black/brown civilians less important than white ones?

I am certain that this is the way the Muslim world reads the situation and that we have further inflamed its hatred of the Western world.

Yours sincerely,
M. TRAVERS-DRAPE,
5/3 Lower Gilmore Place,
Edinburgh EH3 9NY.
December 21.

From Miss Sarah Wildy

Sir, If Operation Desert Fox had to be initiated before Ramadan (reports, December 22), why does it not matter that it was happening during Advent?

Yours sincerely,
SARAH WILDY,
The New House,
Ledgemore, Weobley,
Herefordshire HR4 8QQ.
December 22.

From Mr David Tallboys

Sir, Dr Patrick Moore asks (letter, December 23) "How many new hospitals could have been built in Britain with the money spent on Operation Desert Fox?"

The answer, presumably, is not as many as would be needed to care for the potential victims of the chemical and biological weapons destroyed in the raids.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID TALLBOYS,
11 Victoria Walk,
Cheltenham GL50 1TL.
equityventures.demon.co.uk
December 23.

Quality of NHS

From the Honorary Secretary of the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland

Sir, Your report (December 4) stating that Britain has the fewest doctors per head of population in Europe apart from Albania and Turkey is timely. One might add we have fewer doctors per head of population than the majority of other countries in the Western world. This at a time when more and more responsibilities are being placed upon doctors' shoulders, especially those in surgical practice.

Recent adverse publicity regarding outcomes in Bristol and elsewhere has compounded the situation. Nobody in the profession condones poor performance. Out of adversity has come unanimity amongst those organisations that deal with the practice of surgery in this country (letters, November 19 and 26).

The Government has quite rightly put quality at the top of the agenda for the National Health Service, but in order to achieve this we shall need to expand our consultant base. The profession requires the support, and not the antagonism, of the general public and press if we are to provide a first-class service that this country needs and expects.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT LANE,
Honorary Secretary,
Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland,
c/o The Royal College of Surgeons,
35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields,
London WC2A 3PN.
December 10.

Letters may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

SOCIAL NEWS

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will attend the Commonwealth Day Observance at Westminster Abbey, London SW1 at 3.15 pm on Monday, March 8, 1999. Later

Forthcoming marriage

Mr G.M. MacDonald and **Miss J.H. Grayson**
The engagement is announced between Graham, elder son of Mr R.C. MacDonald, of Cheltenham, and Mrs D. Holfield, of Cam, Gloucestershire, and Justin, elder daughter of the late Mr K.H. Grayson and of Mrs Grayson, of Malvern, Worcestershire.

Birthdays today

June Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, 85; Sir Richard Beaumont, diplomat, 86; Lord Beaverbrook, 87; Sir Samuel Brittan, journalist, 65; Mr John Connell, former chairman, Distillers Company, 74; Mr Bernard Corns, actor, 70; Mr Ted Danson, actor, 51; Baroness Denton of Wakefield, 63; General Sir Robert Ford, 75; Mr Andrew Foster, Controller, Audit Commission for Local Authorities and the NHS in England and Wales, 54; Mr David Hall, former Chief Constable, Humberside, 68; Sir Simon Hornby, President, Royal Horticultural Society, 64; Mr Martin Offiah, rugby league player, 32; Mrs Rosalind Preston, former President, National Council of Women of Great Britain, 63; the Right Rev Mark Santer, Bishop of Birmingham, 62; Sir Kenneth Sharp, accountant, 72; Mr Harpur, 72; Mr John Voight, actor, 60; Sir Edward Williams, former Commissioner-General, Expo 88, Brisbane, 77.

University news

Oxford

Jesus College

ELECTIONS

To Schoolships:

Ben Adams, formerly of Hills Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge; Ali Ali, formerly of Kings College School, London; Christopher Bond, formerly of Magdalen College School, Oxford; James Carver, formerly of Reading Blue Coat School, Berkshire; Ben Chu, formerly of Manchester Grammar School, Manchester; Thomas Clements, formerly of George Abbot School, Guildford; Neil Coffey, formerly of Bancroft School, Essex; Ian Courty, formerly of King Edward VI Grammar School, Essex; Samuel Cusack, formerly of Altrincham Boys Grammar School, for 1999-2000; Christopher Driskell, formerly of King Egbert School, Sheffield; John Eard, formerly of Lancaster Royal Grammar School, Lancaster; Nicholas Greene, formerly of Bishop Wordsworth School, Wiltshire; Timothy Johnson, formerly of Whitby School, Surrey; Simon Joyce, formerly of Poole Grammar School, Dorset; James Rivers, formerly of Wellington School, Wellingborough; Mark Thomas, formerly of Birkenhead School, Merseyside; Mark Vinnall, formerly of Reading School, Berkshire.

To a Merit Scholarship:

Ross Manning, formerly of Alton Tui High School, Mid Glamorgan.

To Exhibitions:

Simon Albert, formerly of St Paul's School, Barnes, for 1999-2000; Anna Barnard, formerly of Nottingham High School for Girls, Nottingham; Thomas Beard, formerly of Sherborne School, Dorset; Joanna Burdett, formerly of Egham Community College, Surrey; Jenny Burgess, formerly of Sevenoaks School, Kent; Joanna Coffin, formerly of Plymouth High School for Girls.

To the Jesus College Old Members Graduate Scholarships:

Mr Stephen Conway, M.Chem., aged 61, died on 24th December 1998, after a short illness, at West Suffolk Hospital, Bury St Edmunds. He was a much loved husband and father of three children. He was a member of the Jesus College Old Members' Association. He was a member of the Jesus College Old Members' Association. He was a member of the Jesus College Old Members' Association.

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Poignant tokens of love left by convicts facing transportation

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

AN EXTRAORDINARY collection of love tokens engraved by convicts as farewell mementoes to loved ones before they were transported to Australia are to be exhibited in London.

Timothy Millett, a leading numismatist who has built up the collection since 1984, is lending it to the British Museum on January 13. He described the tokens as "the leaden hearts the convicts left behind". Most were sent for offences as petty as stealing a ribbon.

The tokens were scratched in prison cells on to the smooth-out surface of copper pennies, just 36mm in circumference. Intended for sweethearts and family members, they carry poignant messages heavy with despair. "Far from my friends, far from my home, on a distant land I am to roam." "The gift is small but love is all." "How hard is my fate, how galling is my chain" — on which the figure of a man is depicted in leg chains.

While some messages are barely legible, they convey the pain of parting and the desperate need to be remembered. One shows a cottage surrounded by a pretty garden. The inscription reads: "This was once my cottage of peace. This is for my dear father from his son who is now in the world say what they will don't prove to me in kind/Thos Alsop/Transported/July 25 1833/Aged 21."

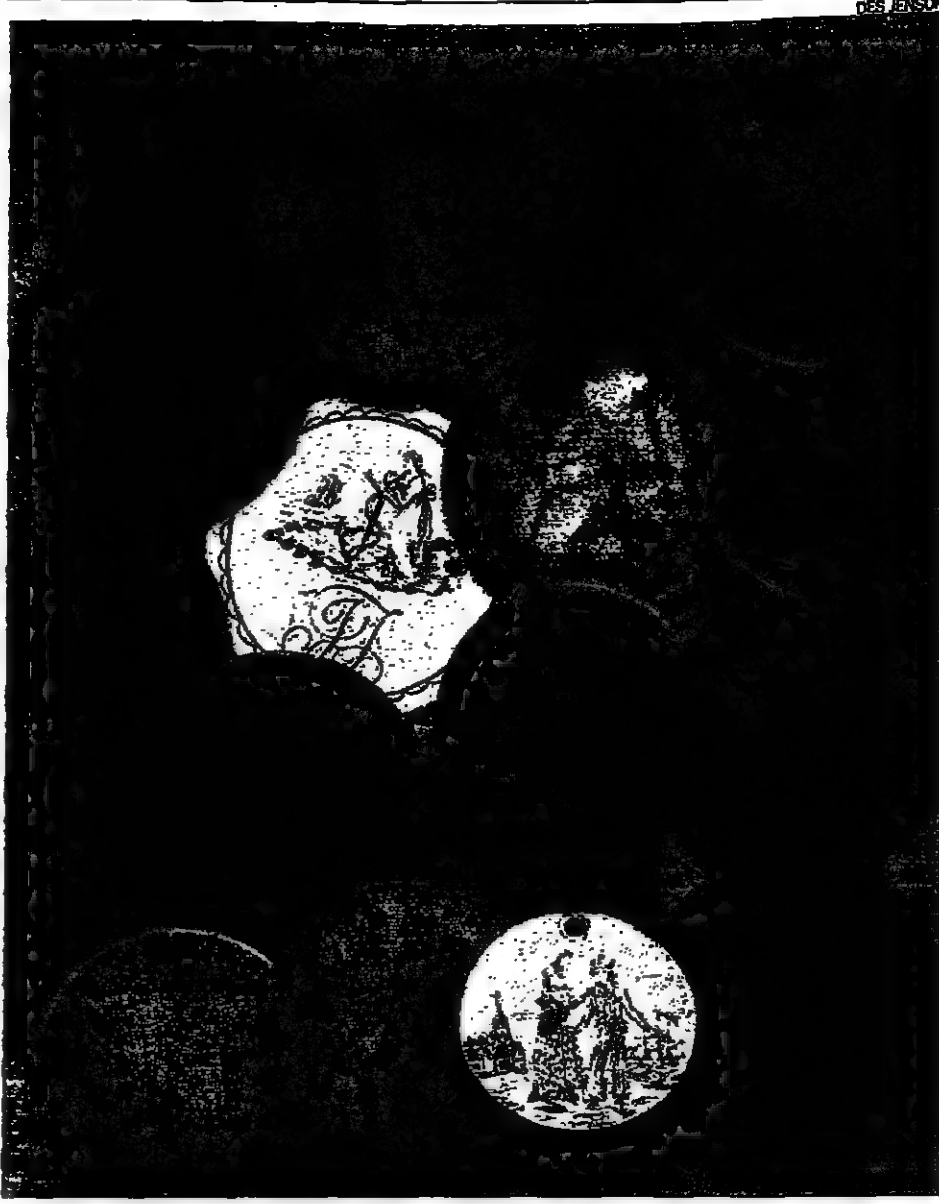
Most of the convicts believed they would return to Britain, but few did. Among

the most moving memento is an 1818 example from John Cumpling, a 17-year-old brick-maker from Tottenham, North London, who was sentenced to life for stealing a silver watch: "Dear father mother a gift to you from me a friend whose love for you shall never end/1818."

Part of the thrill of collecting the tokens has been researching the individual stories. Mr Millett singled out one from Mary Ann Whitlock, a farm labourer sentenced to 14 years in 1831 for stealing a purse — even though it contained just half a crown (12½p). The token reads: "Adieu, dear Aunt, adieu." Her records give a strong impression of her, he said, even down to her ruddy complexion. She was transported from Plymouth on August 10, 1832, nearly a year after her conviction, with a total of 150 women convicts her death is recorded at George Town in 1874, aged 93.

Then there was Thomas Alsop, a 21-year-old illiterate brick labourer who was tried and convicted at Staffordshire for stealing a sheep. His inscription, dated July 24, 1833 — the date he last saw his mother before being removed to the hulks — reads: "When this you see re/ember [sic] me & bear/mine in your mind let all the world say what they will don't prove to me in kind/Thos Alsop/Transported/July 25 1833/Aged 21."

Michele Field, co-author of the exhibition catalogue, said:



Some of the love tokens scratched on coins by convicts awaiting transportation

"Almost every word written about the Australian convicts has judged them damned, then, romanticised them, or conferred a martyrdom on them. Now we have a unique chance to see the convicts as they saw themselves, with their hearts on their sleeves and their engraving tools chiselling out the words 'Love' and 'Liberty'. Though many of the pictures on the coins

show wine-drinking, flowers, the sun in the sky — the kind of images one associates with a summer holiday — texts like 'May we live to meet again' bring the pain to the surface." She explained that they were a "time-filling hobby on the hulks".

Mr Millett recalled how his grandfather, who founded the numismatist company Baldwin and Sons in London in 1923, had sold them years ago to a collector, a policeman on the South Coast. One day, that collector offered to sell them back and Mr Millett jumped at the chance. "I realised that people who aren't into coins generally regard the coin world as pretty dull, and this was a subject which even non-coin people found exciting. That triggered something in me."

Lorna Goldsmith, curator of modern coins at the British Museum, is excited at being able to exhibit the collection. "These are very moving. These people were confronted with something that seemed like death to them. They had no sense of what was going to happen to them. Some are very existentialist in their messages; others are very conventional. Some were illiterate and couldn't have composed their own messages."

She added: "The collection is extraordinary in terms of its quality. There are wonderful pieces in this collection. Yet this type of object hasn't until now been particularly valued. With this type of public face — the exhibition — this part of social history will be far more prominent."

Estimating how many were made is hard, she explained: "About 162,000 people were transported. This collection has 200. Not a lot have survived." Many are believed to have been destroyed by families who preferred to eradicate "the stain on the family name"; several examples in the collection have been defaced, the name removed.

Among descendants tracked down by Mr Millett was the late Stanley Burbury, former Governor and Chief Magistrate of Tasmania: his ancestor was Thomas Burbury, transported for his part in a Luddite uprising in which Coventry workers destroyed new machinery which they feared threatened their livelihoods. He made a token that reads: "T Burbury condemned March 24th 1832. When this you see think on me." His story at least had a happy ending: he became a wealthy landowner.



The harsh life that awaited them: convicts being force-marched in Tasmania

Latest wills

Sir William Beasley of Wimbledon, London SW19, left estate valued at £315,731 net.

Lady (Muriel Mary) Maycock of Bushey, Hertfordshire, left estate valued at £385,707 net.

Sir John David Nunes Nabarro, consultant physician, The Middlesex Hospital, London, 1954-81, of London N12, left estate valued at £380,452 net.

Sir David Dudley Pryke, of Malden, Essex, left estate valued at £195,576 net.

Roger Owen Hay of London NW5, left estate valued at £4,637,378 net.

Trevor Arthur Lloyd Davies, of Elmdon, Salfron Walden, Essex, left estate valued at £2,440,875 net.

Percy Joseph William Dickens, of Caldecote, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £3,764,638 net.

Annie Mary Wilson, of Salisbury, Wiltshire, left estate valued at £3,327,079 net.

She left £2,000 each to Salisbury Parish Church, the NSPCC, Cheshire Foundation and the RNLI.

Harry Leslie Thorne, of Solihull, West Midlands, left estate valued at £2,135,417 net.

Robert Allen, of Branksome Park, Poole, Dorset, left estate valued at £1,493,276 net.

He left £100 to both Onward Bound Trust and STA Schooners (Sail Training Association); plus the remainder of his estate between Age Concern England, Help the Aged, NSPCC, Save the Children, UNICEF, UK Barnardos, RNLI, Royal College of Surgeons of England, Imperial Cancer Research Fund, Oxfam, British Heart Foundation, British Red Cross (Dorset Branch), Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, the Lewis-Manning Cancer Trust, RSPCA, RNLI, Samaritans

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Church news

Appointments

The Rev Thomas Woodhouse, Curate, Cainscross with Selsley (Gloucester), to be Vicar, Hardwicke, Quedgeley and Elmore with Longney (same diocese).

The Rev Malcolm Worsley, NSM, Hawes Side St Christopher (Blackburn), to be NSM, Curate, Little Thornton St John (same diocese).

The Rev John Wraw, Vicar, Clifton St James (Sheffield), to be also Rural Dean of Rotherham (same diocese).

Retirements and resignations

The Rev John Archer, Vicar, Edlington (Sheffield) retired on November 2.

The Rev Noel Baker, Priest-in-Charge, Eastington and Procter, and Priest-in-Charge, Standish with Haresfield and Moreton, Valence with Whitminster (Gloucester) retired on September 30.

The Ven David Banfield, Archdeacon of Bristol (Bristol), retired on November 30.

Canon Michael Bennett, Rector, Toddington, Stanton, Didbrook with Hales and Stanway, and Honorary Canon of Gloucester Cathedral (Gloucester) retired on October 31.

The Rev Lionel Boniface, Team Vicar, Brinsworth with Catcliffe and Treeton (Sheffield) retired on October 25.

Canon Ralph Cartmill, Rector, Chinnor with Eppingdon and Sydenham and Aston Rowant with Crowell (Oxford) retired on November 30.

The Rev Roy Davies, Vicar, West Bromwich St Francis of Assisi (Lichfield), retired on October 31.

The Rev Harry Edwards, Vicar, High Crompton St Mary (Manchester), retired on September 27.

The Rev Lawrence King, Rector, Scalford with Coadby Marwood and Wycombe and Chadwell, Eastwell and Eaton (Leicester), to retire on March 31, 1999.

Canon Anthony Lathe, Priest-in-Charge, Sherrington, and Honorary Canon of Norwich Cathedral (Norwich) to retire May 22, 1999.

Canon James Potter, Vicar, Dordon St Leonard with Fressingfield St Mary (Birmingham) retired on October 31.

The Rev Geoffrey Sansome, Vicar, Marbury (Cheshire) to retire January 31, 1999.

The Rev Kevin Thompson, Vicar, Grenoside (Sheffield) to resign on November 30.

The Rev Barry Will, Assistant Curate, Hucknall Torkard with special responsibility for Hucknall St Mary Magdalene (Southwell), retired December 1.

Other appointments

Sister Lisa Done CA, Resettlement Officer, CA Marylebone Project for Homeless Women, to be CA Area Evangelist, Stroud St Lawrence, Stroud Holy Trinity, Whitshill and Randwick (Gloucester).

Mr Alexis Mouraviev (Dick) Apostol to be a Lay Canon of the Pro-Cathedral Church of St Paul Valletta, Malta (Europe).

Margaret Underdown, Social Worker, Southport and Formby (Liverpool) to be Lay Missioner, Dudley St John Kate's Hill and Dudley St Thomas and St Luke (Worcester).

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TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

You know the generosity of our Lord Jesus Christ. He was rich, yet for your sake he became poor so that through his poverty you might become rich. *Corinthians 8:9*

BIRTHS

ACKIN - On December 18th to Suzanne Hamilton and Gabriele Ackin, a son, Aja.

ASTON - On 24th December at St George's Hospital, Bristol to Anna (née Shaw) and Jonathan, a daughter, Zoe Victoria Jane.

WHINNEY - On 22nd December at Farnhill, Cumbria to Jane (née Tasker) and Harry, a son, Tobias Toby Harry Samuel.

DEATHS

BAYES - Jeffrey Joseph, 11, aged 58. Died peacefully on 29th December after a courageous fight. Much loved husband of Joy and father of Gilly and Anna. Will be sadly missed by his devoted family, a wide circle of friends and colleagues in the legal profession.

CAPITON - Edmund Stuart died peacefully on December 27th. Beloved husband of Elizabeth and father of Robert and Charles. Private cremation.

DEATHS

ELLIOTT - Edith Agnes (née Copinger), on 23rd December peacefully, after a long illness, at West Suffolk Hospital, Bury St Edmunds. Deceased was a much loved mother and grandmother of Roger, Susan, Dominic and William. Family cremation in Cheshire in new year. Enquiries: J C Clarke & Son 01529 722039.

FRANCE - Peacefully on 22nd December, 1998, Frances Margaret Linton France. The much loved wife of the late Arnold France and a dearly loved mother and grandmother. Funeral service on Monday 4th January at St. Paul's Church, Bury St Edmunds. Burial at 2.00pm followed by private cremation in Cheshire in new year. Enquiries: J C Clarke & Son 01529 722039.

LOUGHRAN - Elsie (née Dahl), aged 81, died on 24th December 1998, after a short illness. She was a much loved mother and grandmother. Funeral service on Monday 4th January at St. Paul's Church, Bury St Edmunds. Burial at 2.00pm followed by private cremation in Cheshire in new year. Enquiries: J C Clarke & Son 01529 722039.

HARRISON - John Louis, peacefully at home, on Saturday 28th December 1998, aged 58. Very dear husband of Christina and much loved father of Catherine, Nicholas, Alexander and Thomas. Governor of EBMF (Rural). Funeral service at St. Mary's Church, Reigate on Thursday 31st December 1998 at 3.30 pm.

RINE - Patricia Elizabeth (née Copinger), on 23rd December peacefully, after a long illness, at West Suffolk Hospital, Bury St Edmunds. Deceased was a much loved mother and grandmother of Roger, Susan, Dominic and William. Family cremation in Cheshire in new year. Enquiries: J C Clarke & Son 01529 722039.

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CHANGING TIME

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TUESDAY DECEMBER 29 1998

Premiership contenders respond to pressure with late winner against Wednesday

Villa inspired by Gregory's goals



Leading by example: Southgate, the Villa captain, celebrates the goal that put them ahead against Sheffield Wednesday

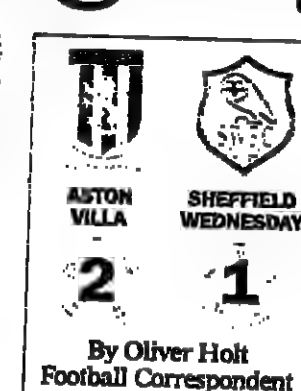
THEY are beginning to look like tin men leaving a trail of clinking metal limbs as they push themselves to the limits of their capabilities. Yesterday, Aston Villa seemed to be on the brink of another significant disintegration of body parts against ten-man Sheffield Wednesday, but the beating heart at the centre of the machine pushed them grimly onwards.

If much of the fluidity and lack of inhibition that characterised their march to the top of the FA Carling Premiership is slowly being eroded as the pressures of their status grows, their determination and grit have not diminished one iota. Wednesday seemed to have ground them down at Villa Park, but John Gregory's team refused to abandon its search for a winner.

Still smarting from their controversial Boxing Day defeat to Blackburn Rovers, when Michael Oakes, their goalkeeper, was dismissed when he was wrongly adjudged to have handled outside his area, it was imperative that Villa secured three points against their struggling visitors to keep the growing challenges of Chelsea, Manchester United and Arsenal at bay.

For much of the game, after Benito Carbone had equalised Gareth Southgate's seventh-minute volley with a bicycle kick of sorts a minute later, it seemed that Villa would return to the top of the table only by virtue of a rather hollow draw. Then, when their frustration appeared irreversible, Ugo Ehiogu rose unmarked to meet a corner from Alan Wright five minutes from the end and headed the ball into an empty net. The victory puts them three points ahead of the chasing pack—at least until tonight, when Chelsea play United at Stamford Bridge.

"It was hard today," Gregory said, "but then I cannot ever remember an easy one. We had to work for it, but we have had to work for everything we have got. We are that kind of team. I thought that maybe it was not going to happen for us today, but the players have got to take a lot of credit for the way they just kept going. They just kept grinding on and on. I am always proud of



my lot at the best of times and they deserve praise today. We won even if it was not pretty. During the course of a season, you will get a few howlers like that. They are not classics, but whoever wins the title has to earn it. I got criticised the other day for talking about the fact that I have got 11 Englishmen in this team, but all I

TOP SIX										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Aston Villa	2011	6	3	31	20	38				
Chelsea	19	9	1	31	17	36				
Arsenal	18	5	3	32	11	36				
Manchester United	19	7	3	32	28	34				
Leeds	18	4	3	32	17	32				
Sheffield Wednesday	10	4	9	9	24	23				

Wanchope leads the way as four see red

PAULO WANCHOPE, sent off a minute before half-time, jeopardised Derby County's chances against Middlesbrough at Pride Park yesterday, but a battling performance by Jim Smith's team saw them restrict Middlesbrough to one goal in the second half, then score a late winner (Mel Webb writes).

Wanchope's red card, one of four in the FA Carling Premiership, came after Andy Townsend had gone in hard on the Costa Rica striker. After the players had appeared to kick out at each other on the ground, Wanchope swung an arm at the Middlesbrough captain.

Arsene Wenger, the Arsenal manager, expressed his fears for Patrick Vieira's future after the France midfielder had

meant was that I know that they will never give up."

At first, it had seemed as though it might be the simplest of victories. Srnicek palmed a curling free kick from Wright uncertainly over the crossbar after five minutes and, a minute later, the Wednesday goalkeeper failed to clear Hendrie's free kick and Southgate reacted first to stab the loose ball into an unguarded net.

Even after Carbone's equaliser, which came courtesy of some untypical hesitancy in the Villa defence, it seemed that Villa had been handed the advantage again midway through the first half, when Dejan Stefanovic, who had already been booked, brought down Julian Joachim as he was bearing down on goal and was shown the red card.

Danny Wilson, the Wednesday manager, railed against Graham Barber's decision, calling it "diabolical", but Wednesday did not buckle. Alexanderson nearly put the visitors into the lead when he volleyed Rudi's cross just wide and Carbone, who was outstanding, floated a clever chip onto the roof of the net just before half-time.

Villa's half-chances came and went. Dublin had a volley blocked by the lunging Walker and his follow-up smothered by Srnicek and, 15 minutes after the interval, Villa's leading scorer was denied again, failing to get the necessary power in his header after an accurate chip from Draper.

Gregory had brought Collymore on by now as he threw caution to the wind in the search for maximum points, but if Collymore's introduction had transformed Villa's match against Arsenal a fortnight ago, it had minimal effect yesterday. He did produce one run and a fizzing shot that forced a fine save out of Srnicek, but still it seemed that there was no way past the Wednesday defence, especially when Joachim hit the post from 30 yards.

Then Ehiogu, who had earlier had what appeared to be a legitimate headed goal disallowed, evaded his marker, leapt high above the goalkeeper and restored Villa to the top of the pile.

When it was put to Gregory that the pressure on him and his team was growing, he had his response ready. "You want to see what it is like at my old club, Wycombe Wanderers, down near the bottom of the second division," he said. "That is pressure. Me, I have got the best job in the world." If he keeps thinking like that, there is hope for Villa yet.

ASTON VILLA (2-5-2): M Oakes — U Ehiogu, G Southgate, G Barry — S Wilson, J Taylor (sub M Draper, 54min), L Hendrie, R Srnicek (sub S Collymore, 54), A Wright — J Joseph, D Draper.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (2-5-2): P Srnicek — E Thomas, D Walker, G Bevanov — A Lynch, P Rudi (sub R Hamphrey, 66), P Atkinson, W Jones, N Alexanderson (sub L Ehiogu, 86) — A Booth, B Carbone. Referee: G Barber.

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Bates presses to seize reins of power

Oliver Holt hears from the controversial Chelsea chairman why he wants to be given the chance to modernise the FA

It was as I walked up the aisle of a crowded plane sitting on the tarmac at Stockholm Airport last May that I realised at last that behind all the bluster, Ken Bates is for real. There, halfway back and looking thoroughly uncomfortable and sweaty amid the rest of the common herd celebrating Chelsea's victory in the European Cup Winners' Cup final, sat David Mellor, eyes fixed longingly on the front rows where the players, their wives and the club directors sat.

Mellor has devoted enough time flattering the Chelsea chairman to defeat a tribe of sycophants. A lesser man than Bates, a less thick-skinned man, certainly, would have yielded to the onslaught and reciprocated with some light mutual admiration and all the privileges of a Chelsea dignitary. Yet there Mellor sat, a victim of Bates's unflinching egalitarianism.

The faults of the man who has been the driving force behind Chelsea's rise to their present pre-eminence are there for all to see. That he is arrogant is undeniable, that he is blunt and tactless, that he is proud to him, but, as he launched his campaign to take over as Football Association chairman yesterday

and swirl out the Auegan Stables that Lancaster Gate has become, it was those very qualities that made him such an attractive proposition. Speaking at Stamford Bridge a week before the FA Council is likely to rubber-stamp the dismissal of Keith Wiseman, its sorry chairman, Bates made it plain that he did not want the job on a permanent basis. His plan is to assume control for a maximum of two years to effect the transition from an antiquated organisation to a modern one.

No doubt he would upset a great many people along the way, but that is exactly what the new man must do if he is to drag the organisation kicking and screaming into the new millennium. It is unlikely, perhaps, that he will emerge ahead of the outstanding candidate for the job, David Sheepshanks, the Ipswich chairman, but his opinions and warnings will rattle the complacency out of some of the more satisfied personages preening their feathers in the battle for the succession. "Every problem provides

an opportunity," Bates said yesterday, "and this is an opportunity for the FA. If they do not seize their chance now, they never will. The great danger is that we will

merely change the people at the top, inherit the current situation and carry on as if nothing had happened. I was approached to see if I wanted the job and at first I

said: 'No.' But then it was put to me that I could do it for one or two years, clean the place out and then hand over to someone else and that holds a lot more appeal. You have got to remember that I have got Chelsea to run as well."

The presence of Bates and the uncompromising nature of his manifesto will, at the very least, be a welcome antidote to the rather overblown candidatures of men like David Davies who has drawn rather naive backing for his own plan to run as chief executive, even though he made such a mess of his former job of director of public affairs.

Despite the preachings of his acolytes, Davies has the poorest of credentials as a moderniser, presiding, as he does, over one of the most backward-looking and cautious public relations systems in international football. If he cannot modernise that, how can he hope to modernise the monster that the FA has become? Bates, on the other hand,

has demonstrated his grasp of the modern game by transforming Chelsea's fortunes with a high-risk strategy of playing huge wages for some of Europe's leading stars. His combative style might offend those who prefer their administrators to be lily-white, but he has increased his influence at the FA steadily and is in charge of the sub-committee in charge of rebuilding Wembley.

"Some of the names that have been put forward for the chief executive's post have been quite ridiculous," Bates said. "We have got to get somebody in from outside football. We have got to reform the committee system and make sure that some of the committees making all sorts of questionable decisions at the moment are made accountable."

"We need to reduce the size of the FA Council and change the system where they can approve things and then when it goes to the AGM, somebody stands up with a block vote and vetoes it. We have got a ridiculous situation existing now where the senior professional game has only as many votes as either the schools, the Army, the Navy or Oxford University."

Whether Bates succeeds or not, the contest will be all the livelier for his presence.

THE THOUGHTS OF CHAIRMAN KEN

Never afraid to express an opinion, Ken Bates has enlivened many a debate with his observations on the world of football. Here are some of his more memorable offerings:

"I suppose I am arrogant, but then I believe I have something to be arrogant about."

"Do we really want to extend the contract of an English manager who believes that Elton Drawery, like Jesus, is just an ordinary person in the street, both having special gifts?"

"Expressing concern over Glenn Hoddle in a letter to Keith Wiseman, chairman of the FA. 'He never had a chance once he revealed himself in his true colours. I don't believe evil should triumph and he was an evil man.' — still attacking Matthew Harding in 1997, a year after his Chelsea boardroom rival had died in a helicopter crash."

"There will be a single strand of electric wire, the type that controls cars... people may have about it being dangerous but it has been used in farming for a long time." — on his decision to erect an electric fence at Stamford Bridge in 1985. The current was never switched on because the GLC refused permission.



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FA Carling Premiership: Ten-man Newcastle squander 2-0 lead in Anfield reprise

Liverpool feast on Hamann pickle



NEWCASTLE United once more filled the role of reluctant entertainers yesterday. How wretched it must be to provide such exhilaration for everyone other than their own supporters. The straight man in slapstick expects a bucket of water over his head whenever he sees a door ajar, but this doesn't seem to have chilled Newcastle to the bone. They were left with the same shoulder experience in losing 4-3 at Anfield in 1996 and 1997.

So crowded was the game that controversies had to squeeze up to leave space for the thrills. The dismissal of Dietmar Hamann, after 30 minutes, did not prevent Newcastle from extending their lead to 2-0 and, if the numerical advantage was ultimately significant for Liverpool, there were greater factors in the revival.

By evenly dividing four goals, Karlheinz Riedle and the magnificent Michael Owen registered their claim to the glory, but those efforts felt like the expression of renewed willpower that suffused the whole team. Gerard Houllier, the manager, was also noteworthy in the collaboration, thinking decisively when he re-



Given, the Newcastle goalkeeper, makes a brave save at the feet of Owen yesterday. The Liverpool striker and his colleague, Riedle, right, both scored twice.

placed one substitute, Stephen Gerrard, with another, David Thompson, at the interval. Playing just behind the attack, the newcomer helped to bring unbearable pressure on the visitors' central defence. The pace of Liverpool increased throughout the game. Vegard Heggem provided the most expressive running of all, making the bursts that sucked

the oxygen from the very blood cells of Stuart Pearce, the veteran left back. For much of the match, Liverpool experienced only the sort of momentum that carries a side downhill. After the 3-0 defeat against Leeds United at St James' Park on Saturday, the Newcastle line-up featured four changes and the attitude was altered comprehensively.

In the first minute, Shearer found Ferguson and James made a splendid save. With Ince suspended and Fowler injured, Liverpool looked bedraggled when McManaman, their captain, had to be replaced. He had only just returned from injury and the challenge by Hamann that caught him on the ankle was a superfluous reminder of the

fragility of good health. McManaman will be missing for at least a fortnight. A wobbling Liverpool were knocked over by an opening goal in the 29th minute. The defence could not clear Glass's free kick and Solano thrashed the loose ball home from the edge of the penalty area. Within two minutes, the game was to assume a new

personality when Hamann, after a routine foul, was shown his second yellow card for an unremarkable offence on Patrick Berger. The anger of Rudd Gullit with Steve Lodge, the referee, rushed from that incident. "I think we played very well and worked very hard, but certain things spoiled it for us," the Newcastle manager said.

For a time, with Shearer withdrawn to give useful cover to the defence, his team looked as if it regarded the loss of Hamann as a mere inconvenience. They scored again, after 56 minutes, when Babb collided with Carragher, leaving Anderson, a substitute for the injured Ferguson, to round James and tuck home a shot that clipped Babb's heel. With Given presenting an apparently insurmountable barrier in goal, Liverpool may have suspected that they were doomed to futility, if gallant, effort.

Owen set them on a more attractive mission, stretching out a leg in the 67th minute to divert Carragher's long-range drive beyond Given. Four minutes later, Newcastle ought to have prevented Heggem's cross from reaching Riedle, but had to settle for unavailing complaints that the German had controlled the ball with his hand before finishing.

Ten minutes from the end, Redknapp's shot deflected off Owen and struck the post, rebounding obligingly to let Owen put Liverpool ahead. After 85 minutes, Riedle gathered Berger's pass and worked his way past Given before confirming the victory.

Speaking of the transformation, Houllier said that he had tried to "verticalise" his team's play. He may have made the language shriek, but, for Liverpool supporters, there were only shrieks of delight. Liverpool (3-2-2), D. James — J. Carragher, S. Shearer, P. Babb (sub: J. McManaman), V. Heggem, S. McManaman (sub: S. Gerrard, 25, sub: D. Thompson, 45), R. Gullit, P. Berger, S. I. Björnsson — M. Owen, K. Riedle. Newcastle United (4-2-2), S. Given — C. Carragher, S. Shearer, S. Pearce, N. Solano (sub: N. Dinkov, 70), D. Hamann, G. Spens, S. Glass — A. Shearer, D. Ferguson (sub: A. Anderson, 54). Referee: S. Lodge.

Armstrong exposes defects in Everton defence



THE first hat-trick witnessed at White Hart Lane since the departure 19 months ago of Jürgen Klinsmann gave Tottenham Hotspur a mighty-looking victory over Everton. That Chris Armstrong should have doubled his goal tally reflects the inadequacy that Everton showed in dealing with the pace, power and commitment of striker and Les Ferdinand, his partner in attack.

Yet so strange was this affair, so fluctuating the ebb and flow, that just before and just after half-time Everton appeared to be so much in control and so wasteful of chances of their own that any smug assumption among the 36,053 crowd that the halcyon days are returning would have vanished into thin air.

However, with Steffen Freund, the experienced German ball-winner on his way, the signs of revival under George Graham's pragmatic and stern coaching are apparent. In the fifth minute, David Ginola curled such an inviting cross from the corner flag that Armstrong, getting in front of Slaven Bilic, might have scored, let alone glance his header over the crossbar. In the twentieth minute, Ginola repeated the invitation and Armstrong, with his lack of control evident for all to see, allowed the chance to slip.

With Darren Anderson and Ferdinand, no less, biting into tackles that may have something to do with Tottenham's new management, the opening goal, when it came, had everything to do with the Graham effect. Ruel Fox, of all people, energetically chased a lost

Muscat's jewel 24
Killer instinct 24

cause and turned the ball back for Ginola. Inevitably, his cross teased an Everton defence that had already lost Craig Short with a shin injury. Armstrong came in with aerial power, but his attempt struck Bilic and bounced into the turf. From there, the ball spun merrily, fooling everyone but Ferdinand, who thrashed it high into the net.

Shortly afterwards, Tottenham began admiring their craft and forgetting their defence. Don Hutchison spotted forhim Bakayoko lurking at the far post and when Hutchison's slanted through-ball found his colleague, Bakayoko scored with a nod of his head. Within a minute, he was crumpled on the turf, his ankle swollen and his game over. That released Danny Cadamarteri to inject movement and pace that sorely troubled Tottenham and, had Alec Cleland showed sufficient composure, it would have been 2-1 to the visitors before half-time.

Nick Barmby, the starlet who left White Hart Lane, was getting fearful verbal abuse from the Tottenham crowd. He should not have let it bother him when, in the 52nd minute, Cadamarteri held the ball bravely with Sol Campbell at his heels, but Barmby's low shot was pushed away athletically by Ian Walker.

Five minutes later, Armstrong began his 19-minute hat-trick. The first, Walter Smith, the Everton manager, claimed, was illegal. He was certain that, after a precise lob by Anderson, Armstrong used an arm to control the ball. Why else, enquired Smith, would Thomas Myhre, his goalkeeper, stop completely, allowing Armstrong the freedom of the six-yard box?

Smith conceded that his side thereafter lacked composure and certainly lacked the pace to cope with Tottenham's twin centre forwards. In the 75th minute, chasing a hopeful pass from Young, Ferdinand delightedly back-heeled the ball, and Armstrong scored an easy goal. And finally, for him, there was a rasping, rousing finale. Anderson picked out Armstrong, who controlled the ball on his chest and finished explosively from the edge of the penalty area.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-2-2), I. Walker — S. C. Young, S. Campbell, A. Smith, R. Fox, D. Anderson, A. Nelson (sub: S. Clemens, 45min), D. Ginola — S. Armstrong (sub: S. Leeson, 57). Everton (3-2-1), T. White — C. Short (sub: A. Cheadle, 7), S. Babb, D. Urwin — R. Fox, D. Dinkov, J. Collins (sub: J. Goss, 70), M. Babb — D. Hutchison, N. Barmby — I. Bakayoko (sub: D. Cadamarteri, 33). Referee: G. Poll.

Hegarty unlikely to land job

ABERDEEN seem certain to resist the opportunity to reward Paul Hegarty with the manager's job on a permanent basis, even if the caretaker steers the Scottish Premier League's biggest under-achievers to their best sequence of results in six years.

Victory at home to Motherwell tonight would be the fourth straight win for Hegarty's players, who have been unrecognisable from the stumbling side that got Alex Miller, the previous incumbent, dismissed. Aberdeen have to delve back through four managers, to Alex Smith in 1992, to recall the last time that kind of run occurred, but while the players want Hegarty — who was Miller's assistant — to be given a contract, Stewart Milne, the club chairman, remains reticent.

"We are still weighing up our options and will take our time," he said yesterday. "We have had a lot of applicants for this job." Milne did say after Miller's departure that Aberdeen would not be rushed into finding a successor because they could no longer afford the failure that knee-jerk appointments often bring. Player support for Hegarty is laudable, but has to be set against the

knowledge that this is the same group failed under Miller. Eoin Jess, whose ten goals have been among the highlights in Aberdeen's otherwise dark season, put the players' case: "If winning the job is all about results, Paul's record speaks for itself. All the players want him to get the job."

"His enthusiasm has made a big difference. We were going out to defeat every team badly under Miller, but something has happened to make us more resilient." Hegarty's biggest decision tonight is whether to leave out Derek Stille, the goalkeeper, now that Jim Leighton has recovered from the flu.

Dundee's gloomy position at the bottom of the table will deepen should they lose to St Johnstone tonight at McDiarmid Park. Dundee have earned a reputation, if not a living, as the Wimbledon of Scottish football in recent years because of their direct style of football, but the irony is that they are in trouble because they have eschewed that style for a passing game this season.

"The league table does not lie."

Dick Campbell, the assistant manager, said, "Bert Paton [the manager] and I have made a success of our job here in the past and it does not feel nice right now, but we will not hide."

The contrast with Rangers, at the other end of the league table, is marked. Dick Advocaat's only real problem appears to be keeping all of his well-paid players happy as the leaders contemplate their future on Wednesday night away to Dundee United.

Anni Niemi, the Finland goalkeeper, who has been deposed by Stefan Klos, the new signing from Borussia Dortmund, will meet Advocaat later this week to discuss his future. Niemi's position is being monitored by Derby County and Sheffield Wednesday. Certainly, the Finn is earning nothing like Klos, whose £100,000 salary has been reported to be around £15 million a year. Rangers can open up a gap of their own, moving six points clear of Kilmarnock and ten ahead of Celtic, should they win at Tannadice.

Both Heart of Midlothian and Dundee require the boost to morale a win would bring from the meeting tomorrow at Tynecastle.

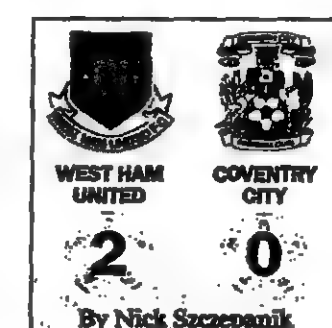
Hartson rediscovers form

THE day when John Hartson and Ian Wright rediscovered the sharpness in front of goal that had deserted them was definitely the wrong day for Coventry City to visit Upton Park. Each laid on a goal for the other and their finishing proved to be decisive in a game that combined errors and inspiration in equal measure.

"I'm sure it will make a big difference to their confidence — not that 'Wrighty' ever loses his," Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, said. "John needed a goal."

Despite the delicate touches of Berkovic and Sinclair, it was the physical presence of Hartson, lacking confidence or not, that set West Ham on the way. After seven minutes of fancy flicks from players on both sides, he decided that some direct action was called for and forced his way down the right before pulling the ball back into the path of Berkovic. Whether by accident or design, the Israeli international stepped over the ball, which then travelled on for Wright to shoot in off Ogrizovic and claim his first goal since October 31.

In contrast, Coventry were lightweight in attack. Aloisi, who had



come on as substitute to great effect against Tottenham Hotspur on Boxing Day, made little impression and was himself withdrawn in the second half. Gordon Strachan, the Coventry manager, who was jeered by a section of Coventry supporters at the end of the game, was subdued afterwards, refusing even to blame Paul Durkin, the referee, for failing to award a couple of possible penalties. "You can't ask anyone to try harder, but unfortunately things have gone against us," he said. "Our goalkeepers really had a save to make. I'm disappointed, but there's nothing to get angry about either."

Coventry stayed out of the bottom three thanks to a Marc Overmars winner away to Charlton Athletic and looked likely to rescue a point only immediately after the restart, when the home defence left Whelan and Aloisi alone to decide who should have the honour of scoring. Whelan mist his shot, allowing Ferdinand, although off balance, to stun the ball with just enough force for Hisslop to recover.

West Ham roused themselves, Berkovic just failing to glance in Hartson's cross-shot, and they made sure of the three points after 67 minutes, when Wright sent in a low cross and Hartson side-footed in. The victory, achieved with Ferdinand struggling with a virus, which saw him spend the interval on the treatment table, takes them up to sixth place in the FA Carling Premiership. "A good position to be in at the turn of the year," Redknapp said, "but there are loads of teams that can get in the top six."

WEST HAM UNITED (3-2-2), S. Hisslop — I. Pearce, R. Ferdinand, J. Dicks — T. Sinclair, S. Leggin, E. Berkovic (sub: S. Pardo, 50min), P. Larmann, S. Lazaridis. COVENTRY CITY (4-2-2), S. Ogrizovic — R. Aloisi, G. Green, R. Shaw, M. Edworthy (sub: P. Taylor, 75) — G. Bocking, G. McKinnon, Y. E. Schwaiblmair, N. Whelan, J. Aloisi (sub: D. Hisslop, 58). Referee: P. Durkin.

Ferguson faces forward shuffle

BY MEL WEBB

IT IS the sort of injury list that would send other clubs tottering into crisis, but no more is required of Alex Ferguson than that he shuffles his pack a little as Manchester United approach a game against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge tonight that might be regarded in the fullness of time as crucial in the contest for the FA Carling Premiership title.

Multi-national talent worth more than £28 million was missing from the United team that claimed a routine 3-0 victory over Nottingham Forest on Saturday. Various niggling injuries reduced Dwight Yorke, Jaap Stam and Andy Cole to the role of spectators and Yorke and Stam may tonight have to sit out one of the biggest games of the season. Ronny Johnsen, who scored two goals on Saturday, is likely to retain his place only if Stam beats the odds and Gary Neville makes a one-match return after missing the Forest game through suspension will be suspended again on Saturday, for picking up five bookings.

Johnsen can probably breathe fairly easily — less comfortable will be the United forward contingent. Paul Scholes and Teddy Sheringham were the front two on Saturday, but they cannot be confident of starting again. Ryan Giggs is back in contention and, with Cole's groin injury improving all the time and Ole Gunnar Solskjær hovering dangerously, Scholes and Sheringham may both have to settle for places on the bench.

There is no mistaking the tension running through the

countdown to this match. Ferguson is unashamedly looking forward to the game and says that his players are, too. "We have a very good record at Chelsea," he said. "It's one of our favourite grounds, just as Old Trafford is for them. It will be a smashing match and I think it has some significance in the title race, in that whoever wins will be doing handstands."

Chelsea, forced a 1-1 draw with United at Old Trafford a fortnight ago and will fancy their chances even more on their own ground, although they still have the uncomfortable memory of a fearful drubbing inflicted on them by United in the third round of the FA Cup in January. The result, 3-3 to Ferguson's team, was far easier than the score might suggest — and they know it at Stamford Bridge.

There is every chance that Gianluca Vialli, the Chelsea player-manager, may be able to select Marcel Desailly for the first time since he injured his knee against Aston Villa on December 9. With Dennis Wise suspended and Gustavo Poyet injured, Desailly's likely return could not be better timed.

Meanwhile, victory and defeat look to be assured for somebody at Elland Road tonight — neither Leeds United nor Wimbledon have drawn a match since the end of October. Leeds, resurgent under David O'Leary, cruised to a 3-0 victory against Newcastle United on Saturday despite the absence of Robert Mladenar, Lucas Radebe and David Batty, all of whom will be missing again tonight.

"Every game here, you have to fight like you are crazy," he said. "Crazy. At Chelsea, we try to play, but it looks like

Matt Dickinson on a cool customer who equates the Premiership with a quiet life

IT is one thing to call yourself the gaffer; another matter entirely to behave like one. Paul Ince discovered the difference when he ran headlong into the brick wall that is Marcel Desailly one afternoon in Milan.

"I had some good battles with Ince at the San Siro," Desailly recalled. "He was always looking for a fight, needing aggression to be at his best. A typical Englishman."

And what of the Frenchman? "I don't need to go to war, so I just laughed. I did not think he was serious." Desailly has been chuckling at English belligerence since moving to the FA Carling Premiership, where he has discovered that five years with AC Milan is no preparation for being cluttered by Carl Leaburn and the other behemoth centre forwards on a twice-weekly basis. Few are better placed to judge whether the English league is superior to its Italian counterpart — as so many would like to believe, despite a mountain of evidence to the contrary.

Yet, while Desailly gives the impression that he has swapped the ballet of Serie A for British bulldogs, he prefers to declare that they are simply different — albeit very different.

"Every game here, you have to fight like you are crazy," he said. "Crazy. At Chelsea, we try to play, but it looks like



Desailly appreciates the mixture of serious football and bonhomie at Chelsea

most of the other teams don't want to. English soccer is English soccer. You have to throw the ball and chase after it.

"It still surprises me the way that some guys play here. It can be dirty and there is a lot of aggression in the challenges. Perhaps it is the beauty of the English game, but I like to think I also have the tranquility. I can play with aggression, but I can also control it."

Roy Keane will be wasting his time, therefore, if he tries to pull on his bonnet boots at Stamford Bridge tonight, when Manchester United will be desperate to impose themselves on a Chelsea side showing no signs of the fragility, both of body and spirit, that has ultimately distanced them from recent championship battles.

"You just look at Marcel and now the team is secure whenever the opposition, Gianfranco Zola said re-

cently. That Desailly's authority is now Chelsea's is evident in the 18-match unbeaten run that they will take into this evening's epic encounter and they will expect to improve on the 1-1 draw that they achieved at Old Trafford, when the Frenchman was missing because of a knee injury. He has been out of action since that game, but the rest has given him much needed time to recuperate.

"Nobody in England has seen the real Desailly," he said. "Psychologically, I have had a big, like a lot of the France team from the World Cup, and I am not very happy about my condition. I am probably only at 70 per cent of my potential."

Still, three-quarters of Desailly is still too good for most Premiership opponents. His skills put most English rivals in the shade, be it in midfield or defence, where Gianluca Vialli will maddeningly insist on

altering him, despite his peerless displays at centre half. Watching Desailly stroll through Premiership games never needing to flex his heavyweight frame to impose himself and then dribbling clear instead of hoofing for touch is to realise just how far the average English defender has to go.

So why has Desailly come here, when he does not appear to be being tested to the full, and so soon after the ultimate high of a World Cup triumph in his home country?

"That much of his decision was down to the lifestyle is evident in his choice of Kingston as a quiet retreat in the capital with his young children. 'I just want to be cool in England,' he said. 'I did too much in Italy, too many interviews, too much pressure. Every week, it would build up to the Saturday, all this attention on just one game.'

"I prefer the way we prepare. We laugh on the bus, we

'Nobody in England has seen the real Desailly'

get a lot of pleasure and enjoy ourselves. In Italy, there is no talking before the game. It is not that we are not serious at Chelsea, just in Italy it was so intense. Maybe now I am 30 and tired of that."

"The English respect your privacy. In Italy, you can't walk down the street with your children. Sometimes, I don't feel like a World Cup winner when I am over here. But that is cool. I am enjoying the quiet life."

After Chelsea, Desailly will return to France, where he began his career at Nantes, to where his family moved from Ghana when he was a toddler. It was there that his half brother, Adonkor, who had been tipped to play for France, was killed in a car crash. "It has always made me feel I am trying to fit in two careers," Desailly said. "Maybe that is what gives me my ambition, what drives me on."

It is driving him on now to complete a unique treble of championship medals. He has won titles at Marseilles and AC Milan, where he was a member of the great side that thrashed Barcelona 4-0 to win the European Cup in 1994. He believes he can repeat that feat at Stamford Bridge and, with another 30 per cent to come from him, it may not seem quite so fanciful should Chelsea beat Manchester United this evening.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: FIRST DIVISION PROMOTION CANDIDATES FAIL TO MAKE A LASTING IMPRESSION AT MOLINEUX

Muscat's jewel tarnished by Wolves' display

Wolverhampton W.....1
Ipswich Town.....0

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

A RARE moment of inspiration from Kevin Muscat, the Wolverhampton Wanderers left back, separated two sides whose ambitions bear little relation to the sum of their parts. If Wolves and Ipswich Town have eyes on promotion from the Nationwide League first division, they are eyes far too big for their stomachs.

Muscat's strike aside, this was a drab affair punctuated by half-chances that no player ever looked likely to convert. A spate of injuries may have diluted the potency of both strike forces, but this was a match in which a "golden goal" might not have been

scored before the year's end. Then, out of nowhere, Muscat, prompted by the industrious Neil Emblen after 87 minutes, drifted inside from the left flank, found the space to set his sights and, from fully 25 yards, unleashed a missile seemingly pre-programmed for its target. Richard Wright, the Ipswich goalkeeper, was rendered impotent by the ball's swerving trajectory and the deadlock was broken.

Colin Lee, the Wolves manager, conceded that a draw might have been a fairer result. He could afford to be generous. His team, outplayed by a lively Ipswich midfield throughout the first half, had just about achieved parity through the proings of Fernando Gomez, a half-time substitute for the injured Steve Sedgley. Indeed, Gomez had

come closest to ending the stalemate when, after 76 minutes, he clattered Wright's upright with a shot that the highly-rated goalkeeper could only flap at in passing.

George Burley, the Ipswich manager, insisted that Wright was blameless over the goal, which he described as "one in a million", although Wright, now on the fringe of the England squad, should not have been so readily deceived. After all, he stood directly underneath the ball as it kissed the underside of his crossbar. And he had been forewarned some 28 minutes earlier, when Muscat, an Australia international, cut loose from a similar position only to see his shot scale the crossbar by inches.

Ipswich are plainly short of cover for their walking wounded. The defence is well marshalled by the uncompromising Mowbray, but their strikers lacked penetration. They sorely missed Bobby Petta, a late withdrawal with influenza, while David Johnson, their centre forward, laboured on his return from a cartilage operation earlier this month.

Furthermore, they will miss the roaming influence of Samassi Abou, a darling ball-carrier, who now returns to West Ham United after a month on loan. Abou cleverly exploited the space created by Burley's deployment of John Kennedy and Jamie Clapham as adventurous wing backs. If Clapham excelled in his role on the left, particularly in the first half, Kennedy was too often profligate with his crosses, often from promising positions.

Yet Ipswich's threat receded when Clapham's influence waned, so that the Wolves' midfield, overstretched for 45 minutes, eventually found some purchase. Kieron Dyer, who left the field after 25 minutes, was never effectively replaced and Ipswich sorely need some new recruits to maintain their promotion drive.

As for Wolves, they, too, were short of key influences — notably another influential victim in Robbie Keane, and David Connolly, both strikers. They completed hard, if without inspiration, to defy the fact that Lee had only 14 fit players to permute.

All of which is immaterial to the Molineux faithful. Anything less than a play-off place will rest uncomfortably with Lee, whose first victory this was since he was confirmed as manager five weeks ago.

WOLVERHAMPTON (4-2-3): M. Stewart — M. Allott, D. Richards, K. Dyer, M. Muscat — R. Hesketh (sub: S. Connolly, 88min), C. Robinson, S. Sedgley (sub: S. Sedgley, 45), G. Whitham, N. Emblen.

IPSWICH TOWN (2-3-3): R. Wright — M. Theobald, M. Hoggan, 89, K. Dyer (sub: M. Hoggan, 25), M. Hoggan, 89, K. Dyer (sub: M. Hoggan, 25), M. Hoggan, 89, K. Dyer (sub: M. Hoggan, 25).

Referee: M. Hooley

Furlong unfurls stirring revival

BY MEL WEBB

EVENTS at Gigg Lane yesterday left both clubs looking even more firmly at the prospect of playing in a different division next season, with Bury heading downwards and Birmingham City up. Birmingham claimed a handsome 4-2 victory against a Bury side who, in spite of suffering terrible problems, are still formidable opponents at home — 24 of their 28 points have come at Gigg Lane. However, that record counted for nothing as Birmingham came from a goal behind to move into third place in the Nationwide League first division.

It started so well for Bury, who opened the scoring after 16 minutes, when D'Jafo headed a Billy corner past Poole. But Birmingham, who looked dangerous every time that they had the ball, changed the course of the game with two goals in short order.

The first came when a corner by Marsh was met by a header from Furlong. O'Connor put them ahead three minutes later. Birmingham's superior staying power in the second half brought further goals from Furlong, who took his total for the season to 12, and Adebole, with D'Jafo scoring a second goal for Bury from the penalty spot five minutes from time.

Trevor Francis, the Birmingham manager, praised his strikers, who have played a considerable role in moving the club towards an automatic promotion spot. "Adebole, Ndlovu and Furlong playing together will always be a prob-



Furlong scored twice

lem for any team and in the second half they ran riot," he said. "It's great to be up there in the league."

Bradford City went into fourth place with their eighth victory in 12 games at Valley Parade. Goals from Blake and Mills — his fifteenth of the season — were enough to beat Tranmere Rovers.

Bolton Wanderers rose to fifth place by adding to Port Vale's relegation problems with a 2-0 away victory. Sellers scored early in the second half and Holdsworth added a penalty 15 minutes from time.

Bristol City remained in the bottom three despite a 3-1 home win over Swindon Town — Torpey scored two, Akinbiyi the other — while the other basement battle, between Portsmouth and Oxford United, ended in a 2-2 draw.

Hughes's 26th goal of the season ensured that West Bromwich Albion came away with a point from Selhurst Park after Crystal Palace had taken the lead through Morrison.



Slide rule: Mowbray, the Ipswich Town defender, is stopped in his tracks by a perfect sliding tackle by Emblen

Sunderland.....2
Crewe Alexandra.....0

BY MARTIN WOODS

IT WAS business as usual at the Stadium of Light yesterday. Three points, two goals and a record crowd saw Sunderland approach the new year odds-on for promotion. How cold and calculating the record book is and how flattering it will be for the home side.

The League Against Cruel Sports might have been put on alert for this fixture after Sunderland's second defeat of the season on Boxing Day left Peter Reid, the manager, wanting a quick kill to restore his side's faith in the legitimacy of their position at the top of the table.

Although there were no saboteurs in evidence among the crowd of 41,433, there is no doubt where their sympathies would lie. Dario Gradi's Crewe side appeared to have all the ingredients to join Sunderland in escaping from the Nationwide League first division rat race, except in Crewe's case via relegation.

After 45 minutes, however, any concern for the welfare of

Killer instinct provided by Bridges

play and, after 54 minutes, Jack's low cross from the right wing flew straight across the goalmouth, but no Crewe player could finish off.

Three minutes later, Scott, the Sunderland full back, beat his own goalkeeper and hit a post with a header from Wright's cross.

Reid sent on Bridges, his leading goalscorer, for the lacklustre Quinn after 60 minutes, but even this failed to inspire his team. Crewe continued to look more like the division's leaders, their players finding more time on the ball and posing a greater threat to Sunderland's goal.

Yet, just when a Crewe goal was overdue, an old-fashioned long ball from Chris Malin found Bridges, who got between two Crewe defenders to beat Kearston from 12 yards. At last, the home side had got the victory that their manager wanted. It was not pretty, but it did not need to be.

Emerging for the second half, Sunderland's anxiety was reflected in the booking of Ball, their captain, after four minutes. Shortly after, to illustrate further their lack of composure, a Quinn volley almost hit the corner flag. The visitors continued to capitalise on Sunderland's tentative

play and, after 54 minutes, Jack's low cross from the right wing flew straight across the goalmouth, but no Crewe player could finish off.

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Cardiff stymied by Hreidarsson

Brentford.....1
Cardiff City.....0

BY PAT GIBSON

A TOUCH of class from Hermann Hreidarsson, at £750,000 the most expensive player in the Nationwide League third division, enabled Brentford to move within four points of Cardiff City, the leaders, with two games in hand.

The problem for most players in the lower reaches of the league is that they know what they want to do, without quite having the ability to do it. That was not something that bothered Hreidarsson, the Icelandic international, whom Ron Noades, the Brentford chairman-cum-manager, signed from his old club, Crystal Palace.

Hreidarsson, a cultured centre back who likes to venture forward in support of his attack, had time and space when Folan touched the ball to him in the 53rd minute. With the Cardiff defence unisely backing off, he struck a crisp, low, left-footed shot from 20 yards that flashed into the left-hand corner of the net.

It was a rare moment of precision in a match that had the atmosphere of a local derby. There may be 150 miles between these clubs, but they are at opposite ends of the same road, the M4, and a huge Cardiff contingent took advantage to make up about a third of a crowd that approached 10,000.

There was such a crush before the start that the kick-off

was delayed for 15 minutes and the overkill from the visitors' end had to be accommodated among the home supporters, with predictable consequences.

None of that, however, should detract from the efforts of the two sides on a heavy pitch which cut up badly.

Cardiff began like a team that had won their past five matches to open a six-point gap at the top of the table, but they were dealt a blow in the thirteenth minute when Young, a key figure at the heart of their defence, had to be helped off with a twisted knee.

Eckhardt proved to be an able deputy, but Brentford seized the moment to step up the pressure. They had gone close to scoring through Miahon and Freeman before Hreidarsson put them ahead.

To their credit, Cardiff hit back with their best football of the match, but with the Brentford defence getting boots and bodies in the way of just about everything, they created only one clear opening. Nugent wasted it by heading wide from Ford's cross.

"I thought it was a great performance from all of our team," Noades said afterwards, "and Hreidarsson was different class." That just about summed it up.

BRENTFORD (3-5-2): K. Dearden — R. Carr, J. Bates, H. Hreidarsson — D. Voigt, M. Rowlands, G. Mahon, T. Ford, J. Anderson — D. Freeman (sub: D. Bates, 67min), L. O'Connell (sub: L. Forster, 80).

CARDIFF CITY (4-2-3): J. Huthwaite — M. Delaney, G. Mitchell, S. Young (sub: J. Edwards, 15), M. Ford — C. Middleton (sub: A. Long, 75), S. Carpenter, J. Foster, M. O'Sullivan — K. Nugent, J. Williams.

Referee: P. Richards

Victory Taylor-made for Royle

Manchester City.....2
Stoke City.....1

BY STEPHEN WOOD

IT DOES not take much for the club that has turned misery into an art form suddenly to believe in its own bluster again and, after their sterling fightback rivals yesterday, Maine Road was almost delirious.

It was clear that this was an important encounter for Manchester City. The players threw everything at Stoke City before fading and allowing the visitors one clear opportunity to take the lead. They departed at half-time to boos before another manic charge brought more disbelief from the fans — at least it did until they managed a winning goal five minutes from time.

Consecutive victories over the festive period have kept them in touch at the right end

of the Nationwide League second division, but there is no doubting the fine line that City tread between success and failure. Although correct in his assertion that his side deserved victory, Joe Royle, the manager, was also wise in his words of warning in the programme notes.

"There is a certain element who are becoming very vociferous and very negative," he wrote. "Listening to them, I can understand why two chairmen and a succession of managers have been hounded out of this place. All the 'knockers' do is put the manager, the board and the players under more pressure... people have to start facing reality and stop playing 'fantasy football'."

The reality of another huge let-down faced Royle at half-time against Stoke. Inexplicably, a header from Taylor had been ruled out for offside and, in the 31st minute, the home defence allowed Sigurdsson space to direct a header past

Weaver. With the introduction of Goater, another striker, Royle changed formation to 4-3-3 for the second half. Still, it required a mistake by the Stoke defence to gift an equaliser to Dickov three minutes after the break, but, for once, the players and fans were routed as one.

Dickov had one effort blocked. Horlock headed over from a good position. Taylor



Dickov: gifted an equaliser

fluffed another shot and Goater tried a Rivaldo-style overhead kick in an attempt to break the stalemate. Just when they looked to have given up, Dickov sent in a hopeful cross from the left and Taylor, a recent signing from Sheffield United, jumped highest to head his first goal for his new club past Muggleton.

Stoke, after setting a brisk pace at the top of the table during the first third of the season, have now lost three in succession, all to promotion rivals. "Our recent form has been a massive disappointment, but I have told the players that our season starts now," Brian Little, the manager, said. "At least we have time to put things right."

MANCHESTER CITY (3-5-2): N. Weaver — C. Goater, G. Walters, A. Vaughan — R. Edwards, J. Pollock, J. Barrett (sub: S. Goater, 49min), M. Brown, K. Horlock — P. Dickov, G. Taylor.

STOKE CITY (3-5-2): C. Muggleton — L. Sigurdsson, P. Robinson, S. Woods — B. Peaty, K. Venn, G. Robinson, D. Clifford, S. Small — K. Lightbourne (sub: S. Small, 69), P. Thomas.

Referee: A. Baine

Hodgson rues missed chances

Darlington.....1
Leyton Orient.....1

BY IVO TENNANT

DARLINGTON have slipped down the Nationwide League third division table over the past two months. In the form that they were in during the autumn, they would have won this fixture and, indeed, had sufficient possession to do so yesterday. David Hodgson, their manager, was left irked as much by Orient's tactics as his team's inability to win.

Darlington's goal, which came in the 67th minute and had looked sufficient to bring about victory, was scored by a powerful header from Gabbiadini from Brumwell's cross on the right. It typified the football played on a sodden pitch between two of the supposedly better teams in this division — muscular, direct and not hugely inventive.

Orient had shown little inclination to move the ball forward with any sense of purpose. Their one chance had come about when Ling, on the right side of midfield, saw his speculative shot sail a yard wide of Preece's right-hand post. And it was Ling who gave them an unlikely equaliser ten minutes from the end.

Watts, a substitute, crossed from the left and Ling, sliding into the Darlington penalty area, stabbed the ball in from ten yards. It was an equaliser that Orient hardly merited, yet they almost won the match two minutes from the end.

Sheffield enjoy finishing Twiss

Sheffield United.....2
Huddersfield Town.....1

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THE many thousands started up on the M1 attempting to get to the Meadowhall shopping complex, could have fared worse yesterday and ended up at Bramall Lane, where the entertainment was real bargain basement stuff. Home supporters at least went home happy after a winning goal in the second minute of injury-time secured a welcome first win in six attempts in the Nationwide League first division.

Michael Twiss, 21, on loan from Manchester United, had been on the pitch only seven minutes when his header eluded Nico Vassen in the Huddersfield goal after a perfect cross by Devin and flick by Morris. His first senior goal brought relief not only to the supporters but also Steve Bruce, the Sheffield manager, who had watched a succession of chances were spurned by Marcelo, whose fluffed penalty attempt after 18 minutes will be a candidate for the worst of the season.

The Brazilian, who has apparently been practising penalties for three months, dithered for an age and then seemed to stub his toe, the ball wearily hobbling a couple of yards wide of Vassen's right-hand post. Marcelo's guttering performance underlined the problems that United face in the striking department. With Dean Saunders and Gareth Taylor now departed and with five regular players absent, Bruce fielded 11 players who could claim just ten league goals between them all season.

Huddersfield are a bag of nerves away from home, which is harming their play-off chances. They mustered only two serious strikes on goal and one of these was the 67th-minute penalty converted by Marcus Stewart, his eighth goal of the season.

"United, makeshift in every department, were nothing if not enthusiastic," Marcelo groused. "I was left and right, but got one on target in the first half, to force an angle over by Vassen."

Kevin Gray, succeeded where Marcelo had failed, conceding an own goal in the 49th minute as he tried to steer away a cross by Devin, who often looked dangerous. Twiss's decisive goal at least produced a result which fairly reflected the balance of play.

"We deserved to win with the effort and commitment we showed," Bruce said. "Those are two qualities you look for as a manager. Had we not won today, we would have been hard done by."

SHEFFIELD UNITED (3-5-2): A. Kelly — J. Dallas (sub: J. Hamilton, 89min), J. Sandford, R. Wicks — S. Forster, K. Hall, M. Morris, G. Woodhouse (sub: M. Twiss, 64), W. Quinn — D. Morris, M. Twiss (sub: J. Morris, 77).

HUDDESFIELD TOWN (4-4-2): N. Vassen — S. Jenkins, S. Hesketh, K. Gray, R. Edwards — D. Bennett (sub: K. Lawson, 54), G. Bech, L. Hesketh (sub: D. Phillips, 14), G. Johnson — W. Allott, M. Stewart.

Referee: T. Jones

Watkins keeps Cheltenham in touch

A THIRD goal in the three Football Conference matches that Dale Watkins has started this season gave Cheltenham Town a precious 1-0 win over Kidderminster Harriers before a crowd of 3,295 at Aggborough yesterday. It ensured that Cheltenham stayed in second place behind Kettering Town.

Rushden and Diamonds, who remain third, can turn their minds fully to their FA Cup third-round tie against Leeds United on Saturday happy with four points out of six from the Christmas holiday programme. Goals by Miguel De

Non-League Football
BY WALTER GAMMIE

Souza and Adrian Foster carried Rushden to a 2-0 win over in-form Woking in front of 4,307 people, the best attendance of the day in the Conference.

Yeovil Town warmed up for their FA Cup trip to Cardiff City by beating Farnborough Town 6-3 at Huls Park. Farnborough led three times before being finished off when Warren Patmore completed a hat-trick with two late goals. Welling United, who clinched their first win for 12

matches by beating Hayes 2-1 at Church Road, climbed off the bottom — to be replaced by hapless Farnborough.

Chesham United, now managed by Alan Cork, gained a satisfying 3-0 victory away to Aylesbury United, their local rivals, in the Ryman League premier division. It was the league leaders' first home defeat of the season. Sutton United went down 1-0 at Carshalton Athletic and dropped from second to fourth on goal difference behind St Albans, held 0-0 at Enfield, and Purfleet, 1-0 winners at Dagenham and Redbridge.

Tendur hold

Steve Waugh and MacGill combine to regain initiative for Australia

England let advantage slip

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE (third day of five): England, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are five runs behind Australia.

THE difference between an ordinary cricket team and a very good one is expressed not so much in individual heroics but in the ability to identify and arrest the key sessions of a match. This England team has never acquired the skill. Australia, as they reiterated to ruthless effect yesterday, possess it in abundance.

At teatime, the fourth Test could scarcely have been better balanced. Australia, having already scrapped tigerishly through the afternoon to avoid the threat of a significant shortfall, trailed by 18 runs with two wickets left. The match was there for the taking, but, on a sunlit evening, one team raised their game and the other disintegrated.

All it took was a partnership, a bit of teamwork, the type of thing at which these Australians are so consistently, confoundingly superior. Steve Waugh was batting and it is not possible to bat much better, but the England tail would undoubtedly have left him stranded long before Stuart MacGill was willing to do, long before he had taken the crisis out of the contest.

The ninth-wicket pair put on 88, which is a good deal more than England's last five wickets have mustered in the first innings of any Test so far. Against increasingly deflated bowling and ragged fielding, Australia obtained a lead of 70 and then, with grotesque inevitability, Michael Atherton was out for nought again.

Atherton was comprehensively bowled by the ninth ball that he faced and, with his footwork bankrupt and his bat coming down crookedly, he was fortunate to have lasted so long. After 210 not out in Hobart last week, he has registered the first "pair" of his Test career and it likely that this series — in which he has 110 runs from eight innings — will eclipse even the statistical horror of his Caribbean tour earlier this year.

Perhaps this arduous, defining session of a day that was extended to nearly eight hours of cricket will be seen to have twitched the exit curtain on Atherton's international career. More immediately and fundamentally, however, it showed yet again that one side in this series stares the confrontation in the face, while the other averts its eyes.

There was some comfort for England in a spirited second-wicket stand, but even this was to end in treachery and farce. Mark Butcher, looking more composed than he has done since the first Test, swept MacGill lastly into the mid-air of an unwitting Michael Slater at short-leg.

It was a moment to stretch the most stoical of temperaments and Butcher cracked, gently flicking off a ball in a gesture born of disbelief. A compassionate match referee would find more to forgive in this than some of the antics that have gone unpunished, but, as Butcher retreated sadly, Alec Stewart was left to ponder the paradox that his own form had been restored with-

out curing England's vulnerability.

Waugh's unbeaten 122, spanning more than five hours, was a masterpiece by a player who has very few peers amid the relentless tests of character presented by the modern game. Yet he could not have achieved it without the prolonged support of the lower order, a precious commodity on which England now seem to have given up altogether.

Test matches are customarily dictated by their first innings and the performance of the two lower orders in four first innings to date gives a revealing indication of why Australia may soon lead 3-0. England's aggregate, for wickets six to ten, is 198; Australia's is 644.

The compounding of these figures yesterday cost England their second opportunity to seize control of this match. They should have made more than 270 runs on Sunday, when Mark Taylor was surely misguided to put them in, and they should certainly have made more capital of reducing Australia to 151 for five.

As a holiday crowd of more than 43,000 built up on a mercifully milder morning, England were donated their first wicket by a highly questionable leg-before decision against Mark Waugh. For Angus Fraser, it was the wicket that he had begun to fear he would never take before his scuffed Test career was revived by Alex Tudor's injury.

Fraser's control was doggedly dependable — though he failed to bowl a single maiden for the second successive innings — but it was Darren Gough who supplied the menace. He bowled the fastest spells of the series here and ultimately bowled himself to exhaustion. At least, this time, he emerged with the figures that he deserved.

In his second spell of the morning, Gough had Justin Langer caught at gully, slicing a drive, then dismissed Darren Lehmann as he tried to impose himself on a former Yorkshire batsman with some outrageous strokes. Gough made the ball bounce steeply and, occasionally, he was timed at more than 90mph.

SCOREBOARD FROM MELBOURNE

Australia won 100-6 (41.1 overs, 30 balls, 2 runs)	
ENGLAND: First Innings 270 (A. J. Stewart 107, 110 balls, 4 fours, 1 six; S. C. G. MacGill 4 for 81)	
Second Innings 100-6 (41.1 overs, 30 balls, 2 runs)	
M. A. Atherton 107 (110 balls, 4 fours, 1 six; S. C. G. MacGill 4 for 81)	
M. A. Butcher 44 (57 balls, 4 fours, 1 six; S. C. G. MacGill 4 for 81)	
D. W. Fleming 14 (20 balls, 1 four, 1 six; S. C. G. MacGill 4 for 81)	
Total (2nd day, 2nd session, 91 balls): 100-6 (41.1 overs, 30 balls, 2 runs)	
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Steve Waugh acknowledges applause for his seventh century against England, during which he passed 7,000 Test runs

His support, however, was generally anemic.

Dean Headley is capable of high quality but prone to cross. After lunch, replacing Gough, he bowled one horribly wayward over that cost 13 runs and handed over the initiative like a relay baton. With Alan Mullally looking diminished — partly by his batting

humiliations but also since he bowled superbly for no reward in Perth — Stewart's options were frighteningly few, for he had no specialist spin bowler on a turning pitch. Waugh and Ian Healy were already much the most prolific sixth-wicket pair in Test history and they added a further 58 to their efforts before Healy pulled Fraser to long-leg. Damien Fleming offered nuisance runs again, but Matt Nicholson fell to Gough's swinging yorker and England took tea with hopes high, the new ball imminent and a small but valuable lead available. Instead, they tumbled for another 100 minutes in the field while Waugh and MacGill rendered their optimism obsolete.

Waugh, who had reached 7,000 runs and passed the Test aggregate of Sir Donald Bradman, took Australia ahead by stepping away to lash Gough through cover for four, then reached his century by lifting him over mid-wicket and, untypically, hooking him for two.

MacGill showed in Pakistan, two months ago, that he is no mug with the bat and he accumulated almost as fast as his partner, driving England to evident despair before Mullally finished the innings with two wickets in three balls, no late to make the final act of this longest day seem anything but an anti-climax.



Atherton, too late with his defensive shot, is bowled by Fleming to complete his first pair in Test cricket

Waugh dons the mantle of another all-time great

Michael Henderson
watches the
Australian master
batsman score
a superb century

Rome fell. Babylon fell. Hind-head's turn will come. So said Shaw, or one of his characters, which amounts to much the same thing. Australia will fall one day, it has been said, and no doubt we shall all have a jolly good laugh. Until then, England will endure many more days like this, of apparent promise undermined by the loss of points at crucial moments.

This game was going rather well for them until Steve Waugh stepped in to shape it to his satisfaction with a superb hundred. Yes, that man, again! What wouldn't any team, at any time, give for such a cricketer? Lucky Australia, who have him until he loses his legs, his eyes or his curiosity. Actually, "lucky" Australia is not quite right. If you play cricket with a sense of purpose and root out the weeds, as they do, you produce such men. Real men.

This was one of the great days of his life, because it was the day that he went past 7,000 Test runs and also passed Bradman's Test aggregate. For a man who is known to have a deep knowledge of the game's past and an awareness of the great players who came before, he may think to himself: "Goodness gracious, I've scored more runs for Australia than the Don!" He admitted later that he felt a bit nervous as he went past the old master.

"I have always dreamed of scoring a hundred here, in front of a big crowd," he said. "I made one here two years ago against Sri Lanka, but there were not so many people that day. The context of the match made it more special."

Only four Australians now head him. He won't catch Allan Border, whose 11,174 runs are protected by a ring of fire that even Siegfried might have found forbidding, but there is no reason why he cannot move ahead of Mark Taylor, David Boon and Greg Chappell, the other men to have breached the 7,000 mark.

This was his seventh hundred against England, which puts him equal with Boon and one behind Border, among his contemporaries. It was brought up with a hook off Gough, a stroke that he reserves for special occasions, like a parson and his wine decanter, and he looked pretty pleased to reach it. He has made six scores in the 90s in Tests and, as he said: "I didn't want to break the world record." He can thank the tail for wagging. The 88 runs that MacGill shared for the ninth wicket, exceeded the last six England partnerships the previous day by 18.

'He felt nervous as he went past Bradman's mark'

He is not a man who draws attention to himself, unlike his brother, Mark, who plays strokes that batsmen with better records achieve only in their dreams.

But to compare one twin unfavourably to the other is to miss the point, except to say that one is indisputably a great batsman and the other should be. Very good, so far as M. E. Waugh is concerned, is not good enough.

It has often been said that Steve is the "interesting" player to watch, which depends on what the viewer finds interesting. Many moons ago, Simon Barnes wrote an excellent piece in *The Times* about Steve Davis, when he was snookering opponents out of sight, and observed that dramatic performers, such as Alex Higgins, were essentially shallow. They could be colourful and fun to watch, but the really interesting sportmen were those who rewarded careful watching.

Nobody with a true love of cricket could find a study of S. R. Waugh less than absorbing. He has hauled himself to the highest peak and there he remains, compelled by a sense of self-worth that tolerates no hint of indulgence. Through the sweat of his brow, aligned to a considerable talent, he has become one of the all-time Aussie greats — and you can't say fairer than that.

In his hour of triumph, he refused to gloat, finding kind words for an England bowling effort led superbly by Gough. Atherton, alas, failed again. He cannot find a run at the moment and can have watched only with immense regret as Waugh charged to another century. It is a tough old life. Even Waugh was dropped once, against England, too. Now he is in perfect voice. When you know the notes to sing, you can sing anything.

Tendulkar and Azharuddin hold key to India victory

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

NEW ZEALAND had just the barest whiff of victory in their nostrils at the end of the third day of the second Test against India in Wellington and would be even happier about their prospects were it not for the continued presence at the crease of Sachin Tendulkar.

India have been 144 runs behind on the first innings, but the deficit had been erased before the close as Tendulkar and Sourav Ganguly tucked into the New Zealand bowling with considerable relish. India were 179 for three at stumps with Ganguly on 47 and Tendulkar looking ominously determined on 42, a little pearl of an innings that included a six and six fours.

Stephen Fleming, the New Zealand captain, tried everything that he knew to separate the free-scoring India pair, who put the spin attack of Paul Wiseman and Daniel Vettori to the sword in an unbroken partnership that is so far worth 67 runs.

New Zealand were right to fancy their chances as the match headed for its most crucial phase, but even when they have parted Tendulkar and Ganguly, the next man in is Mohammad Azharuddin, the India captain, who scored an unbeaten 103 in the first innings.

Fleming was happy to acknowledge that his team would need an early breakthrough on the fourth

morning if they were going to thrust themselves into a winning position. "We need a big session first up tomorrow," he said. "The game is so finely balanced — they fought back well in the final session. If we can take two or three quick wickets in the morning and then be left chasing between 150 and 200, it could be the perfect Test match."

Wiseman was hit out of the attack after conceding 38 runs off eight overs and Vettori was pushed and struck for 44 off ten, but Fleming

still saw them as potential match-winners. "We have to face the fact that they are probably the best players of spin in the world and sometimes they can play you out of the game. We just have to make sure we support Dan and Paul."

Earlier on, Vettori had put himself into the record books when he and Dion Nash added 137 runs for the eighth-wicket, one run more than the previous New Zealand best of 136, which had been set by Bev Congdon and Bob Cunis against West Indies in Port of Spain in 1972.

Tendulkar made his mark with

the ball when he ended the record partnership. Five minutes before lunch, Vettori exposed his leg stump and was bowled by Tendulkar for 57.

The comfort with which the tailenders batted after an uncertain start, especially by Vettori, was proof that the pitch was likely to be benign enough for the powerful India batting contingent to flourish. Two of the three wickets that India did lose were born of impetuosity rather than the vagaries of the pitch or the strength of the New Zealand attack.

First, Ajay Jadeja dragged the ball on to his stumps as he attempted a flamboyant and ferocious pull to the bowling of Nash. Navjot Singh, his opening partner, was intent on no more than defence when Simon Doull trapped him leg-before for his eighth wicket of the match, but Rahul Dravid, normally an adhesive customer, gave Wiseman the charge and was bowled off his pads.

Azharuddin felt that the initiative had swung back to his team and a good session on the fourth morning could set up victory. "I'd rather be in my camp than theirs," he said, "but we must bat well tomorrow morning. If we can get in a position to set them 300 on the last day, hopefully our two spinners and Sachin can bowl us to a win."

West Indies face an uphill task

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

WHAT with two sensational catches by Herschelle Gibbs, a catch that never was by Mark Boucher and a run-out that brought no appeal from the fielding side, the third day of the third Test match between South Africa and West Indies at Durban yesterday was anything but dull. More routine was the performance of West Indies, who, by the time that bad light ended play for the day, were once again tramping steadily towards defeat.

West Indies ended the day on 246 for eight, only 132 runs ahead of the home side. They subsided to an end-of-innings collapse of English proportions, losing five wickets for 13 runs to negate a combative partnership of 160 runs in 189 minutes for the third wicket by Brian Lara and Shivnarine Chanderpaul. It will take an uncharacteristic and unlikely resurgence by West Indies to salvage anything from this match. If their form on this tour is an indicator, it should all be over by tonight.

Gibbs started West Indies' hapless slide when he threw himself full length to his left at square leg to hold a full-blooded pull to bring Lara's innings to an end on 79. Lara had shown touches of his imperious best as he struck 15 fours off 139 balls, Chanderpaul, who went six balls later when he was caught and bowled by Shaun Pollock for 75, was not far behind in the quality of his strokeplay, hitting 13 boundaries off 169 deliveries.

Then came the controversial dis-

missal of Carl Hooper. He had barely got in when he applied an inside edge to a ball from Pollock, that nipped back off the seam. Boucher flung himself to his left and took the ball low down, immediately signifying that he had taken the catch cleanly, whereupon Hooper decided to walk without hesitation.

If he had known what television slow-motion replays were to reveal, he might not have been quite so prepared to take Boucher's word for it. The cameras showed clearly that Boucher had grounded the ball when his glove hit the turf as he completed his dive. This was an in-

cident in which no blame could be apportioned to the umpire, since they played no part in the decision. Had Hooper stayed put, Dave Orchard, the umpire at the bowler's end, would almost certainly have referred the decision to Cyril Mitchell, the third umpire, who could reasonably have come to only one conclusion. Perhaps Hooper will leave it to the men in white coats next time.

Not long afterwards, Gibbs produced an even more brilliant catch than his first when he sprinted from mid-wicket and held a mis-timed pull from Darren Ganga as

he heared towards the boundary and made the catch left-handed with both feet off the ground.

It had been a remarkable, incident-packed day thus far and the action was not yet over. Franklyn Rose appearing to be run out after colliding with Jacques Kallis. Hansie Cronje, the South African captain, formally completed the run-out, then immediately ran across to Orchard and told him that South Africa did not wish to appeal.

Rose made decent use of the reprieve, battling in the company of Jacobs to a stand of 31 for the eighth wicket that ended when Rose hit a skier into the safe hands of Gibbs, who duly equalled a South Africa Test record by holding his fourth catch of the innings.

Earlier in the day, Rose had completed his best Test performance in taking seven for 84. It was also the best return by a visiting player in a Test at Kingsmead. Allan Donald, playing in his fiftieth Test match, became the first South African and the twentieth player in Test match history to take 250 Test wickets. Only Dennis Lillee, of Australia, who reached the milestone in his 48th Test, has achieved the total in fewer matches.

Boucher's assertion that he had made a clean catch brought support later from Cronje, who said that he had seen the incident several times on the big television screen at the ground and shared Boucher's opinion. "I am still convinced it was out," Cronje said.



Lara hits a four through the off side on his way to a majestic 79

What they said during the Sporting Year — as noted by Mel Webb

'Don't ever think you have let us down. You are a great player and I love you to bits'

— Tony Adams to David Beckham



This is without doubt the worst moment of my career. I will always regret my actions. I have apologised to the England players and management and I want every England supporter to know how deeply sorry I am. David Beckham tries to make amends for his sending-off that led to England's exit from the World Cup against Argentina

controversial challenge on Neil Lennon, the Leicester City midfielder player.

I am totally confident that I will eventually prove to everyone that the incident was not intentional. Shearer

If it hadn't been him he would not have had to put up with all the publicity that has followed. It's been ridiculous and I didn't want him charged. Neil Lennon

Rhodes, not as good as he used to be.



As far as I'm concerned his fee should be put in context. He should be nailed down and never allowed to leave this club. David O'Leary, Leeds manager, on defender Lucas Radebe

I am pleased to put the record straight and in doing so clear my name. I was always confident that I would. Shearer after the Football Association returned a "not proven" verdict on the incident.

It means that Alan's been vindicated. I can't understand why it had to go this far in the first place. Kenny Dalglish, the Newcastle striker

He hasn't got much character, not much personality and he's a bit boring, but as a striker he is a different class. Gary Crewther, Stevenage striker, assesses Alan Shearer, his opposite number, in the run-up to the Conference side's FA Cup tie against Newcastle United

He said to me: "I'm just calling to let you know that we're not frightened of you. We'll play you anywhere — even on Hackney Marshes." Victor Green, Stevenage chairman, on a call from Kenny Dalglish, manager of Newcastle, before their fourth-round FA Cup tie

I think when the officials walked into our club today, they expected to see a ramshackle, broken-down cove with some sheep eating the grass because we couldn't afford a mower. Green on the visit from Newcastle's safety officials

On the pitch they've been a credit to themselves, to the club and to the town of Stevenage. But off it they've got a lot to learn about manners. If they were a Premier League club they would have probably been done up for bringing the game into disrepute. Dalglish after his team had finally beaten Stevenage

He shook my hand at the end but as a non-League manager I just wanted someone as big as Kenny Dalglish to say "Well done". But he didn't. Paul Fairclough, Stevenage manager, responds to Dalglish's comments

I looked across at their bench when Gary Crewther scored for us and I could see fear in the faces on the other side. Fairclough after his side pulled the reply back to 2-1

The whole thing is an incestuous cycle and the only job I know where you can spend £15 million and fail, go away for six months on the golf course and come back and get a good job. Blow £15 million in business and you'd never get a job in the profession again. Fairclough on the difficulty in getting into Football League management from the outside

We wish them well in the FA Trophy. We hope they get beaten in the next round. Dalglish offers Stevenage generous good wishes

I thought that if you took their four goals out, we were the better team. Fairclough after Stevenage had been beaten 4-1 by Lincoln City in the second round of this year's FA Cup. He was sacked ten days later

I am 100 per cent sure what happened was accidental. It's time now for everyone to get off his back. Glenn Hoddle backs Alan Shearer before the World Cup finals after the Newcastle striker's

Newcastle manager, gives his verdict

It's the last time I'll be involved at Lansdowne Road — unless they pick me for the rugby. Paul McGrath after his emotional farewell to Irish fans in his testimonial in Dublin

Lions should roar, not wheeze. What the England fans really want to see this summer is Gazza blazing a trail and lighting up the pitch in France, not a cigarette in the dug-out.

Cancer Research Campaign spokesman on revelations that Paul Gascoigne smokes

Ossie Ardiles was on 40 a day when he won the World Cup with Argentina, and there's a fellow called Vielli at Chelsea, too. It didn't bother Ossie and it doesn't bother me. Hoddle

I mean my absolute No. 1 dream that I will die happy if it happens — I want to see a UFO. They're real. I don't care if you look at me like that — UFOs are a definite fact and I've got to see one soon. I've got to see one soon. Gascoigne on his ambition in life

Football is my life and will remain my life... but I have to move on from being just a player now. Becoming a coach is the next step and I could not think of a better place to do it than England. Diego Maradona reveals his future plans

My advice to him would be to learn to manage himself before he thinks about managing footballers. John Barnwell, secretary of the League Managers' Association

I've been lucky enough to play in 54 Test matches and, for a grubby-haired little schoolboy from a council house in Stroud, I can't complain. Jack Russell, England wicketkeeper, after announcing his retirement from international cricket

He has two chances — slim and no chance. And slim is out of town! Don King on Lennox Lewis's chances of beating Evander Holyfield

They were right about Schumacher.

He literally committed suicide. Terry Danstan after beating Alexander Gurov in 20 seconds to win the European cruiserweight title

You can never say die till the fat lady sings. Stuart Raper, Castleford coach, mokes his metaphors after the Tigers' last-minute Challenge Cup defeat of Leeds Rhinos

If I had stayed off Nassem there wouldn't have been a fight. I might as well have stayed in the corner and had a cup of tea or something. Wayne McCullough criticises Nassem Hamed's style after the Sheffield man's points victory in their fight in Atlantic City

This is not a joke, nor a hoax but confirmed information. El Mouridjaid, Algerian Government newspaper, claiming that Formula One driver Michael Schumacher was really an Algerian called Farouk

As soon as he came round, he was saying "I want to stay on. I want to stay on" — that says everything about his enthusiasm. Hoddle piles the praise on Michael Owen after he recovered from a collision to score the winner against Morocco

I think play-acting has been a feature of the World Cup. Blanc is a guy with exemplary conduct throughout the tournament. He raised his hand, but the

play-acting of Bilic was dreadful — but everybody is doing it. The reaction of Alan Hansen, the BBC pundit, after France defender Laurent Blanc had been sent off for violent conduct against Slaven Bilic in his country's World Cup semi-final victory

Bilic will be going into the dressing-room thinking "I've let my fellow pro down here." Martin O'Neill, the Leicester manager

I gave the referee a bit of abuse because I thought he cost us the game. Not unexpectedly, I was reported and I accept that I was out of order. McGhee after being charged with misconduct by the FA for criticising referee Paul Dallas

For me, if it had been Old Trafford, Arsenal or Stamford Bridge, the referee would not have got out of the ground, but our crowd are nice people, and we don't have a lynch mob. Roy Hodgson, Blackburn Rovers manager, on Peter Jones's performance in the 4-3 home defeat by Chelsea

We're going to bomb and kill people in Iraq and this is what they are thinking about — what sort of mentality is that? Instead

the undisputed, unadulterated, unmitigated champion of the world. King's description of the winner of a Lewis-Holyfield bout

As long as they don't expect me to socialise with him because I certainly won't be doing that. It would suit me if I never spoke to the guy again. Ian Chappell, former Australian cricket captain, after learning that arch-rival Ian Botham would be his co-commentator for television network Channel 9 during the Ashes series

I've been written off more times than Damon Hill's cars. Billy Hardy, European featherweight boxing champion, preparing to defend his title against Paul Ingle, Commonwealth champion

When that one today hovered over us so low I could see the pilot's eyes, my legs turned to jelly. It cost me at least three shots. It was ridiculous. It made me wish I'd had my gun. Christy O'Connor Jr, who escaped unscathed from a helicopter crash six years ago, after a helicopter buzzed the course while he was playing in the PGA Seniors Championship at The Belfry

Goals are like children — they are all beautiful. Christian Vieri, Italy's in-form striker, after refusing to disclose which was his favourite goal of France 98

I'm not worried about him and you can't just try to stop Ronaldo because we know we have to stop Ronaldo. Bebe, maybe Denisov as well. Frank Leboeuf on the challenge facing the France defence

One hundred and sixty million people will be chanting for Brazil on Sunday. We will not let the opportunity go away. It is in our hands. It is a dream final — a dream cup. Mario Zagallo, the Brazil coach, prepares for the World Cup final

They committed the most heinous, howling and unjustifiable mistake of their lives. Correio Braziliense, the Brazilian newspaper, on the decision of Zagallo and Lido Toledo, the team doctor, to play a manifestly unfit Ronaldo in the final

We lost the World Cup but I won another cup: my life. I went to sleep and then it

I want to run a football team, learn languages and help starving kids.

I've got more chance of winning Miss World than Cyndeebank have of playing in Dublin.

Jack Steadman, former Cyndeebank owner, on their plans to relocate

I don't want to increase our offer. If you go down to the local supermarket to buy something with a 30p price tag on it you don't normally offer 45p.

Gregory remaining steadfast after hearing of Leeds' increased bid for Dublin

If you play, you get paid. Simple enough — I don't think many people will quibble with that.

It was a strange feeling when you realise that for just changing your mind, you're still alive.

It's fair to say I pitched and putted like God out there. Lisa Walters, golfer, after a particularly good round at Stirling

We went from the penthouse to the 50th floor. John Kear, Sheffield Eagles coach, after seeing his side blow a 19-point lead in the final 22 minutes to lose 24-23 to 12-man Leeds

It's the greatest English sellout since Anzac Day. I think the English will have their own fatal landings in Australia and New Zealand over the next few weeks. Dick McGruther, Australian Rugby Union chairman, reacts to the announcement of an England touring squad weakened by withdrawals

A lot. They are for me. Colin Montgomerie's brief analysis on what went wrong and what aspects he needs to work on after disappointment in the US PGA Championship

seems I had a fit for 30 or 40 seconds. I woke up then and my whole body was in pain. Ronaldo on his state of health

We were unaware of the clause in Dublin's contract until the Coventry chairman Bryan Richardson made the disclosure on Monday. It was very nice of Mr Richardson to let us know. John Gregory, Aston Villa manager, on how he was alerted to Dion Dublin's availability

Nobody enjoys playing against him even now. You worry about keeping all your teeth.

A member of the Denmark squad preferring to remain anonymous before facing veteran Wales forward Mark Hughes in the European championship

He's certainly a great kid and shows a lot of ability. Michael Owen, old before his time at 18, offering a mature verdict on Aston Villa's 17-year-old defender Gareth Barry

He wasn't a bad player really, you know, average. Paul Dalglish offering a revisionist historian's view of his father Kenny's playing talents

I don't want to build the boy up too much or put too much pressure on him, but Paul Dalglish can be our Michael Owen.

Craig Brown, Scotland manager, clearly not believing the Newcastle forward's surname imposes enough of a burden of expectation

A reminder to spectators — don't park your cars too close to the ground.

Peter Fenwick, Sunderland Cricket Club chairman, after signing Philo Wallace, the big-hitting West Indies opener

I didn't mind so much having my leg broken — I was just gutted at being overtaken by a Skoda.

Andy Rigby, Vauxhall Rally of Wales spectator, who suffered a broken leg when hit by the Skoda Felicia, driven by Jeremy Nolan, which he was trying to avoid

Apparently there had been a shellfish ban there, but nobody told us.

Darren Clarke, golfer, who contracted food poisoning after eating crab during the Portuguese Open

I realised I was struggling when it was our turn to go and field because I asked if anyone had any sunscreen.

There was a stunned silence and then Neil Fairbrother pointed out that it was dark and we were playing under lights. Hollis again

Gordon Strachan, Coventry City manager, fines Dublin two weeks' wages after he refused to play for the club in case an injury scuppered a possible transfer

People were laughing at us. The only way we were bigger was in terms of egos. Strachan after Coventry had been beaten 2-0 by Luton Town, of the second division, in the Worthington Cup

I thought we came back well because in the first half we were lower than Captain Nemo. We came back from the depths. Strachan after Coventry had drawn 0-0 with visiting West Ham

We have five points now. We only need another 80 to win the league. Joe Kinnear, Wimbledon manager, after a 1-1 draw early in the season

Emile Heskey's got a baby face. He's got soft, gentle eyes — but he's awesome. Tony Gubba, Match of the Day commentator, waxes lyrical about the youthful Leicester striker

I have very fond memories of Nottingham and its people. They were always good to me and I always said how much I liked the place. Pierre van Hooftjdonk upon his grovelling return to Nottingham Forest

What use is money if you are not happy as a private person? Every time I have been home, I have wanted to stay a little longer. Brian Laudrup, Chelsea's homesick forward

You must be as strong in March when the fish are down.

Gianluca Vialli, mistakes his chips as Chelsea go briefly to the top of the Premiership

Nobody enjoys playing against him even now. You worry about keeping all your teeth.

A member of the Denmark squad preferring to remain anonymous before facing veteran Wales forward Mark Hughes in the European championship

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Darren Clarke, golfer, who contracted food poisoning after eating crab during the Portuguese Open

Nez might have a Ferrari and a Lamborghini but I've got two whippets and a ferret. They're more important in this area.

Paul Ingle, Scarborough boxer, on why he is more of a Tyke than Nassem Hamed

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Tony Cottee, the Leicester goal-scorer, battles past Sheffield Wednesday's Andy Hinchliffe and Pavel Srnicek in Saturday's match. Photograph: Ross Kinnaid/Allsport

Time to sign up your new team to get bang on target

Today we announce more ON-Target prize winners, opposite. ON-Target, a new competition, for which all Times Fantasy League teams are automatically entered, is an extra way of winning prizes (including cash, sports equipment and games software) in addition to the main, monthly and weekly prizes.

Playing the game is simplicity itself. If your team's points total matches the number or numbers in that week's ON-Target box, you have qualified to enter a draw which could win you £500 cash plus an EA Sports Pack containing, among other items, the videogame FIFA 99 for PlayStation or PC.

In other words, if your total team score, according to the player lists printed opposite, comes to either 10 or 16, you should read the instructions on the facing page to find out what to do next.

This extra competition means that you could be a prize winner even if the players in your team have had a disastrous weekend. For example, even if seven of your players spent 90 minutes on the bench, and your goalkeeper, Mark Schwarzer, for example, scored minus two, then twelve points from, say, Tim Sherwood, Paul Ince and Tore Andre Flo would give you an overall score of ten, keeping you in with a chance of a prize.

Boxing Day will be remembered for the seasonal generosity shown by a number of teams. The North-eastern hospitality of both Middlesbrough and Newcastle was appreciated by Liverpool and Leeds United, their respective visitors, who were welcomed into palatial homes and given three goals apiece.

This was especially bad news for Times Fantasy League entrants with goalkeepers or defenders from either of the home sides in their selections. Shay Given, Nikos Dabizas and Dean Cordon, all of whom have been valuable points-scorers in the past, each scored minus two, as did the defenders of Nottingham Forest, beaten 3-0 at Old Trafford.

Undoubtedly the top performer

was Ronny Johnsen (see opposite), but there were impressive scorers among the players of Leeds, Liverpool and Manchester United. Harry Kewell has been pushed up alongside Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink in recent matches, and both scored and provided assists to rack up five points each. Paul Ince and David Beckham each laid on two goals for their teammates, worth a total of four points.

This week, we are publishing player lists updated to include all games played on Boxing Day, as well as last week's Charlton v Aston Villa game, but not those played yesterday, December 28 (Bank Holiday Monday).

New lists affected by the results of

games on December 28 and 29, and the name of the winner of the monthly prize for December, will appear on these pages a week later, Tuesday January 5.

With all FA Carling Premiership clubs involved in FA Cup third round ties on the weekend of January 2, there will be no games affecting Fantasy League lists in the next seven days.

It is not too late to send in your entry for last week's special Christmas Fantasy Quiz. In an unprecedented burst of seasonal generosity, we are offering a magnum of champagne to the winner, and three runner-up prizes of copies of *The Spirit of Football* book. Entries must be in by first post next Monday.



As I was saying

Good Christmas? Not bad. Thanks for the Newcastle socks, by the way. Black ones, I notice. Yes, the Newcastle socks refused to admit the existence of any white ones, and then they went back to black for the last two home games in any case. So you're completely up-to-date.

Very gratifying. And did you launch your new team complete with Bonal, Frank Lebeck and Mylre? I'm afraid I chickened out of that one in the end.

So what was the theory behind the new team? I just decided to pick all my favourite players, regardless of whether they perform well in Fantasy League terms or not.

That doesn't sound too sensible. If you don't mind my saying so.

Well, I get fed up hoping teams I don't particularly like do well just so that I can get extra fantasy points. I think I'll enjoy cheering teams I do like and picking up the odd point here and there as a bonus.

I don't believe you've ever admitted to any club sympathies before, who are these teams who have earned your loyalty?

Oh, I wouldn't say loyalty; you were nearer the mark when you said sympathies. I like the underdogs: Wimbledon, Southampton, Leicester, that type of club. Not exactly like glamour teams.

There's more to football than the Billy Bigtimes. Oh, don't think for a minute that I disagree. I fact, I rather enjoyed

reading a book called *Stand Up If You Hate Man United* that Santa brought me along with the socks. But we digress. Who did you pick from those excited outcrops?

Efan Ekoku, Matt Le Tissier and Muzzy Izzet. Good picks, all of them. But I would have liked Chris Perry and Matt Elliott as well. This one player per club rule was very inconvenient. But I just picked some of my faves from other teams, like Eyal Berkovic, Marcel Desailly and Nigel Martyn.

But doesn't it mean that you won't be up for any prizes. If you're not picking the best players?

Well, I reckon that the new ON-Target game means that you've got as good a chance of a win from the random number.

Of course, there's more glory in winning a weekly or monthly prize.

True. But the money is just as good, even if a certain element of skill is not involved.

... which in your case is definitely a bonus.

Any chance of the On-Target number being 0?

0? Well, I don't know. But I'll be happy to pick a team that scores 0 points if that's all right.

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CHOOSE YOUR PLAYERS FROM HERE

Columns show: code, name, club, weekly points, total points, valuation (m).

GOALKEEPERS

101	D Seaman	ARS	10	3.7	1.0
102	A Marshall	ARS	10	3.7	1.0
103	M Donohue	AST	10	3.7	1.0
104	A Radford	AST	10	3.7	1.0
105	J Pien	BLA	10	3.7	1.0
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116	P Robinson	LEI	10	3.7	1.0
117	M Koller	LEI	10	3.7	1.0
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276	S Schuster	MAN	10	3.7	1.0
277	S Schuster	MAN	10	3.7	1.0
278	S Schuster	MAN	10	3.7	1.0
279	S Schuster	MAN	10	3.7	1.0
280	S Schuster	MAN	10	3.7	1.0
281	S Schuster	MAN	10	3.7	1.0
282	S Schuster	MAN	10	3.7	1.0
283	S Schuster	MAN	10	3.7	1.0
284	S Schuster	MAN	10	3.7	1.0
285	S Schuster	MAN	10	3.7	1.0
286	S Schuster	MAN	10	3.7	1.0
287	S Schuster	MAN	10	3.7	1.0
288	S Schuster	MAN	10	3.7	1.0
289	S Schuster	MAN	10	3.7	1.0
290	S Schuster	MAN	10	3.7	1.0

Nine-point Ronny on cloud nine

It's not often that a player other than a striker notches nine points in one game but our £500 winner has no reason to complain

What's in a name? Danny Baker, in his Saturday Times column, identified the modernising of certain football names: the new generation of players contain plenty of "Jimmies" but few "Jimmies". Jimmy Redknapp? Jamie Greaves? Neither works, does it? Bobby Fowler? Robbie Charlton? The point seems to be proved.

These days, among the Darrens and Dionos, not to mention the Pierluis and the Gianluigas, a "Ronny" seems as anachronistic as an Albert or Stanley. Ron Fletcher was an acceptable moniker in the Seventies, and Ron Flowers before that, but British mothers and fathers do not seem to be naming their children Ronald any more.

In Norway, things are obviously different. If Ronny Johnsen, Manchester United's Norway international central defender, is any yardstick. Or are they? His full name, according to the Professional Footballers' Association's Footballers' File, is actually Jean Ronny Johnsen.

On Saturday, in Manchester United's 3-0 victory over Nottingham Forest at Old Trafford, Johnsen put in a performance that made him a clear winner of our Fantasy Player Of The Week award (the second successive Norway international to take the coveted title after Stig Inge Bjornebye last week). Nine points were gained by his contribution to his team's clean sheet and, more unexpectedly, two of United's three goals.

The first, a downward header past Dave Beasant from close range, was nothing out of the ordinary for a central defender, but his second, a thunderous right-foot volley after Henning Berg had nodded down a David Beckham free kick, was more reminiscent of Ronaldo than Ron Harris.

Johnsen played in all four of Norway's World Cup games in France, but has not been able to appear so consistently for his club. He has attracted a series of injuries, most unexpectedly when fouled by Michael Owen, of all people, in last year's United v Liverpool game, a challenge for which Owen, improbably, was sent off.

Some have put Manchester United's inconsistent defensive performances down to the fact that Johnsen has not been a regular in the team, and to the failure of Jaap Stam to find a steady partner. Certainly Johnsen would seem to be the obvious candidate, although it was his misplaced pass in the second half of the home game with Middlesbrough that presented the visitors with their ultimately decisive third goal.

No surprise, then, that Johnsen featured in this week's winning team, Only50million?, chosen by Giles Boylett of Maidenhead.



The Only50million? XI

E De Goeij (CHE)	3
C Servant (NEW)	0
M Ball (EVE)	3
R Johnsen (MAN)	9
S Prior (LEI)	3
I Taylor (AST)	3
P Ousset (MID)	2
J Carragher (LIV)	3
M Overmars (ARS)	3
D Dublin (COV)	4
J F Hasselbaink (LEE)	5
Total points	35

"I stuck with him through the injury," Mr Boylett said — as good a decision as bringing in Ed De Goeij, Dion Dublin and Michael Ball in mid-November, all of whom scored points on Boxing Day. Dublin, in fact, earned four points over two matches with two assists, from Richard Rufus's own goal in last week's Charlton v Villa game, and Ricardo Scimeca's consolation goal on Boxing Day.

Other notable contributors to Mr Boylett's total of 35 points were Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, who scored a late goal in Leeds United's 3-0 victory at Newcastle, as well as providing an assist, earning a total of five points. Hasselbaink's 90th-minute effort emphasised that it is getting tighter at the top by the week. Four entrants tied for second place, with 34 points, all of whom would have overtaken Mr Boylett but for the Leeds goal.

Mr Boylett, whom we managed to speak to before he set off for a week's holiday, does not support any particular team. "I can take an unbiased view," he said. "It is in keeping with his profession, as an independent financial adviser. In the light of his £500 win (plus £100-worth of sports equipment), did he regard Fantasy League as a good investment? "Obviously," he said.



Another Big Ron at Old Trafford: Norway international Ronny Johnsen has not had the best of luck with injuries, but staked his claim to be Jaap Stam's regular defensive partner with a clean sheet and two goals from set plays on Boxing Day. Do the Old Trafford management agree? They do, Ron (Ron)

So what if your team is useless? Just hit the number

There are 500 good reasons for entering a new team now for ON-Target, where you match the points to have a chance to win

Congratulations this week to Ms S Townsend of Epsom, the second winner of ON-Target, who today finds herself £500 richer and possessor of an EA Sports Pack. Fourteen other managers have also won themselves prizes.

Even if you do not have a Fantasy League team, you can enter this new game now — or enter a new one simply for ON-Target. All managers have the chance to win a share of £28,000 of new prizes. The Times has teamed up with EA Sports to offer you the chance to own the renowned FIFA 99 game. Every week you have the chance to win:

- 1st Prize: £500 plus an EA Sports Pack
- 4 runners up: EA Sports Packs
- 10 additional runners up: FIFA 99 CD-Rom.

Each EA Sports Pack contains: FIFA 99 for the PlayStation; FIFA 99 for the PC; EA Sports T-Shirt, key ring and mini football plus a record bag. IF YOU already have a team in the main Fantasy League, then you are all ready to play ON-Target. Simply check your Fantasy League players' score each week and see if their total is the same as our ON-Target score shown here each Tuesday. If you have scored the exact target points, a quick call to our ON-Target winners' line (national rate call) will put you in the draw to win one of the 15 prizes. The ON-Target score may be high or low. There could be more than one score (such as today). It could be a minus score. So it's worth checking your performance every week. Just have your PIN number handy to call the winners line on:

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10 or 16

points?

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(ex UK +44 870 901 4270)
Calls charged at national rates

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should last about a minute. Claims must be made before midnight on Sunday night. The lines then close until the next game starts on Tuesday morning.

If you have scored the correct number of points AND called the claim line, you go into the draw. Just look in the paper on the following Tuesday to see if you have won.

Managers with the correct points who have not called the claim line will not be entered. Calls that are incomplete, inaudible or invalid will not be entered. All teams in the draw must conform to the main game rules.

Winners

FANTASY LEAGUE QUIZ

Last week's quiz was our Christmas special where a magnum of champagne and three runners-up prizes were offered to the first correct answer that found a seasonal connection between the four players pictured. The winner will be announced next week.

This week you are invited to search in your body of footballing knowledge to find the tenuous link between this quartet...

FANTASY LEAGUE TOP 100

1	Phil Clarke	Shabab United	224
2	Michael Langdon	Hermaphrodites	224
3	Sean Morrison	O Not Again Ref	222
4	Tony Maragones	Tony's Terrors	222
5	Robert Anderson	Robert's Rovers	219
6	Sean Eastwood	Coen Brothers	217
7	David Young	Dave 10	215
8	David Ward	In The City	214
9	Terry Butler	Don Don Don	214
10	Rigel Kala	Kalps Kings 8	214
11	Richard Deane	On The Wagon	210
12	Terry Butler	El Tets Revenge	210
13	Thomas Macklin	It's All Stars	209
14	John Lettis	Sold At The B&C	209
15	Oslo Smith	Corson Fc 5	209
16	Phil Tuer	Pn-Ups 7	209
17	Scott Brett	Scott's Stars	208
18	Bobbi Playden	Robert's Raiders	208
19	John White	Fusegear	208
20	L. Samuels	Spartak Moscow	208
21	Paul Gibson	Boogaloo Dudes	207
22	Richard Yarnish	Porno Pick	206
23	James Walsh	Tiger Arnie	206
24	Arjen Highdale	Dave's Deans FC	205
25	Ray Walter	Blue & Black Bar	205
26	Alan Westrup	Tyneside Army 94	205
27	Steve Ogden	Lokomov No Go	205
28	Robert Little	Broken Arrow	204
29	Phil Wootton	Salt Varsity	204
30	Ian Fitzroy	We Have Beckham	204
31	Martha White	Gampus Gunners	204
32	Rona Broadhurst	823 363	204
33	Reda Elsher	Packard	203
34	Andrew P. Hoell	Shonstrom	203
35	James McGregor	Do I Need Overalls	203
36	Paul Gibson	Euro Stars	202
37	James Riley	The Promis Stars	202
38	Murray Macmillan	Murray's Marvels	202
39	Gary Levermore	Tora-Co Team	202
40	Peter Bonnelly	Goals 71 Use	202
41	Pauline Huggarth	Trumpetuesday	202
42	Cliffan Rose	Bernie's B&B	201
43	Jonathan Bewick	Bozzers Boys	201
44	Sam Niles	Don FC	201
45	Don Shorter	Don 5	201
46	Brian Campbell	Sunday Sunday	201
47	John Hall	Wilton United	200
48	Oliver Chapman	Wigston Rangers	200
49	Andrew Marsh	East My Goal	200
50	Ty Gwynne	Heart Of Glass	200
51	Michael Scully	Alldowdashed	200
52	James Ingitt	Pride O The Rock	199
53	Charles Duncanson	Alans Strikers	199
54	Michael Lynn	Sammusstars	199
55	Michael Langdon	Grossincompent	199
56	Robert Todd	Bob's Blasters	199
57	Darren Braughton	Monsey Moners	199
58	Ty Gwynne	Hachester Who?	199
59	Marjan Knapman	Revolution 1	199
60	Gordon Crotchley	Super Saddlers B	198
61	William Allen	Leptotermans	198
62	Grant Pan Pota	Grant Pan Pota	198
63	Mike Shipley	Minus Threat 10	198
64	Stephen Marshall	Dorchesterway	198
65	Jim Byrne	Paranoid	197
66	D. O'Brien	George F C	197
67	Stuart Rottler	Sportstevie	197
68	Nathan Smalley	Nathans Lads	197
69	Steve Walker	Team C	197
70	William Levermore	Throw In Males	197
71	Tony Gwynne	Naines Two	197
72	Nicholas Neighley	These Eat Beers	196
73	Phil Tuer	Peter 7	196
74	David Perry	Midghalms	196
75	David Walker	Just A Second FC	196
76	Andy Luckhurst	Caroline B	196
77	Simon Barker	The Times Eleven	196
78	Paula Hadden	Premier Cruisers	196
79	Mike Hawley	Holyburn Yagler	196
80	Zane Radcliffe	One Paul Byrne	194
81	Jeremy Ives	Inter Deight	194
82	Nicholas Fennell	Fliesenflurs	194
83	Nathan Curwell	Nath's Champs	194
84	Jap Singh	Inter City 442	194
85	John Gibson	Amherst Howard	194
86	Stuart Scotland	Muggs Farm	194
87	Kevin Styles	Oliverstonjordan	193
88	Brian Hutton	Relegation Carla	193
89	D. O'Brien	Smoke's Reserve	193
90	V. Scallan	Gatto Nero	193
91	Keith Davies	Leas Eleven	193
92	Vandana Thirwell	Manley City	193
93	Andy Fennell	Andy's Allstars	193
94	Ian Cooke	Throverdown	193
95	David Daley	The Daley XI	193
96	James Kerr	Serious Squad	193

Plus one other on 193 points.

CHECK YOUR SCORES
TELEPHONE 0640 62 51 02

YOUTH LEAGUE LEADERBOARD

1	Robert Anderson	Robert's Rovers	219
2	Stuart Rottler	Sportstevie	197
3	Nicholas Fennell	Fliesenflurs	194
4	Richard Low	Geord United	192
5	David Swithbank	Titus All Stars	192
6	Alison Carter	The Pugnoses	192
7	Brand L	Brand L	190
8	David Slight	The Superantics	190
9	Richard Burton	No Fear	190
10	Graham Jevon	Gage	189
11	Jonathan Dearlove	Suburban United	189
12	Robert Liddell	The Hill Bikers	189

Marc Overmars, who features in this week's winning team

Dead-ball magicians liven prospects

THE FACT that Premiership managers spend so much time on the training ground working on set-pieces demonstrates the growing importance of dead-ball situations in the game of football today. This should also be considered by managers in The Times Fantasy League when it comes to delving into the transfer market.

There are two types of player who benefit from dead-ball situations in the world of Fantasy League: the provider of the cross — the type of player who can pick out a target man from fifty yards for the all important assist — and the target man himself.

Paul Ince comes into both of these categories to some extent. Although he tends to leave the final strike at goal from

free-kicks to his midfield partner in crime, Jamie Redknapp, Ince is a dab-hand at rolling the ball to the Anfield pin-up to grab two points. This was shown on Boxing Day when Ince touched a free-kick to Redknapp who lashed home from 12 yards.

Ince's heading ability is also quite often underrated. He has already notched up several

goals so far this season with his head, and rose to set up Jamie Carragher on Saturday.

One of the best headers of the ball in the Premiership is undoubtedly the Chelsea and Uruguayan midfielder Gustavo Poyet, although he now seems likely to miss several weeks through injury. Others in this category are Newcastle's Nikos Dabizas and Tottenham's Sol Campbell, both central defenders. Even United's Ronny Johnsen, scorer of two goals on Boxing Day, and Leicester's Matt Elliott regularly find themselves on the scoresheet even though their prime concern is to prevent goals leaking at the other end.

The providers of these telling balls are a bit more obvious. It comes as no surprise to see the

words "... headed in from a Beckham corner" make several appearances in the newspapers throughout the course of the season. Similarly, Darren Anderton's crossing ability is so good that even David Ginola doesn't get a look-in when Tottenham gain a corner or a free-kick in a dangerous situation.

Leeds full-back Ian Harte and Leicester wing-back Steve Guppy both pose a threat with inswinging left-footed corners and we cannot leave the category of accurate passers without mentioning Paul Gascoigne. Gazza still has as much ability as anyone to make a pin-point pass and proved that on Saturday when he picked out Brian Deane with a free-kick.

MATT SMITH

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RACING: TRAINER'S ROW LEAVES MAGUIRE READY TO STEP DOWN AS STABLE JOCKEY

Nicholson's future put in doubt

By RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE future of David Nicholson as trainer at Jackdaws Castle was thrown into doubt yesterday after a heated row with Colin Smith, owner of the Cotswold stable, over Adrian Maguire, the yard's retained jockey.

After weeks of speculation, Maguire is set to stand down as the retained jockey at Jackdaws Castle, which will leave Richard Johnson as the number one rider at the state-of-the-art training complex in the heart of Gloucestershire.

Maguire, whose career has been blighted by a series of bad falls and injuries, feels he has lost the confidence of the

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: Farouq Du Mesnil (1.55 Musselburgh)

Lack of peak fitness cost my selection a victory over course and distance a fortnight ago. He should make amends for the in-form Kevin Morgan yard in this moderate race.

Next best: Tonoco (1.05 Haydock Park)

Duke" in recent months and was meeting Smith last night after racing at Chesham to arrange a dignified way of being released from his retainer, worth about £15,000 a year. He is still expected to ride horses trained at the yard.

"Adrian has suffered death by a thousand cuts — and that is totally unreasonable and debilitating for any jockey," one source close to the yard said. Although Maguire will step down as a retained jockey, Johnson is unlikely to be given a retainer.

The manner in which Maguire has been treated has caused a rift between Nicholson and Smith — two strong-willed men who both believe they have behaved properly — and, unless they manage to reach some kind of accommodation, it seems likely the successful association will be under threat.

Nicholson is a salaried trainer, but his contract has expired recently and has yet to be renewed. It would appear, at best, that Nicholson will train for one more season at Jackdaws Castle, but the present disagreement could conceivably mean this is his final term



Kendal Cavalier jumps the last before holding the determined challenge of Fiddling The Facts in the Welsh National

at one of jump racing's most prestigious training centres. Oliver Sherwood and Charlie Egerton have already been mentioned as possible successors.

Nicholson arrived at Chesham yesterday for the Coral Welsh National and was clearly angered and upset by recent events. "Speak to Mr Smith," he said, somewhat tersely.

The rift did not stop Maguire riding Hunt Hill to victory for Jonjo O'Neill in the Final Junior Hurdle nor finishing third on Forest Ivory for Nicholson in a pulsating re-

newal of the Coral Welsh National. The day's feature race went to Kendal Cavalier whose proven stamina enabled him to thwart Fiddling The Facts, who appeared all over the winner turning for home.

Behind the 14-1 success lay another controversy, for the eight-year-old was moved only a week ago from the yard of Rod Millman to that of Nigel Hawke by Michael Wingfield Digby, the horse's owner. Kendal Cavalier won four races when with Millman last year, and had been successful when

trained previously by Toby Balding. Wingfield-Digby explained: "We wanted a specialist jump trainer. We moved to Rod because we were very near and he did well, but people get very over-sensitive and touchy about these things. I am a cricketer and if I want to change counties or clubs I change. We have freedom of choice but we have come in for a lot of abuse as a result of this. I am grateful to Rod and Toby and hope they will remain my friends."

Kendal Cavalier has under-

gone a different routine since moving to Hawke, best known for riding Seagram to victory in the 1991 Grand National. "He has been turned out every day and his family need that to relax," Wingfield-Digby added.

Hawke's big-race success also happened to be his first winner of the season and he was quick to accept that Millman had a large part to play in the victory. "A lot of the credit must go to him," he said. "The further Kendal Cavalier goes the better he goes — and he might be a National horse."

MUSSELBURGH

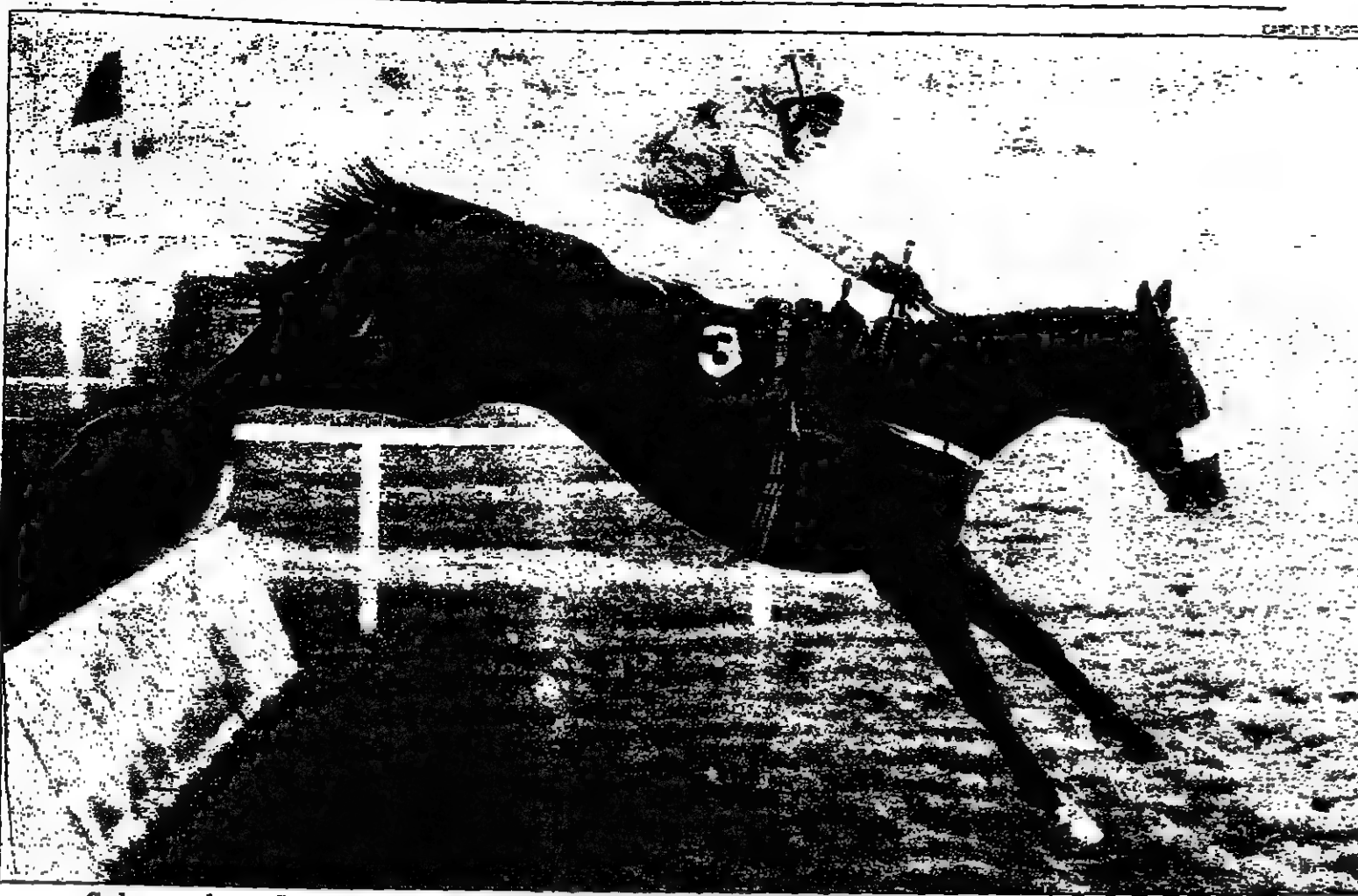
THUNDERER
12.25 On So Cosy, 12.55 Roveretto, 1.25 Ardina,
1.55 Farouq Du Mesnil, 2.25 My Shenandoah,
2.55 Adamatic, 3.25 SUPREME FORTUNE (nap).

GOING: GOOD (7.30AM INSPECTION) SIS

12.25 BUBBLY JOCK MAIDEN HURDLE

(10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000-1001-1002-1003-1004-1005-1006-1007-1008-1009-1010-1011-1012-1013-1014-1015-1016-1017-1018-1019-1020-1021-1022-1023-1024-1025-1026-1027-1028-1029-1030-1031-1032-1033-1034-1035-1036-1037-1038-1039-1040-1041-1042-1043-1044-1045-1046-1047-1048-1049-1050-1051-1052-1053-1054-1055-1056-1057-1058-1059-1060-1061-1062-1063-1064-1065-1066-1067-1068-1069-1070-1071-1072-1073-1074-1075-1076-1077-1078-1079-1080-1081-1082-1083-1084-1085-1086-1087-1088-1089-1090-1091-1092-1093-1094-1095-1096-1097-1098-1099-1100-1101-1102-1103-1104-1105-1106-1107-1108-1109-1110-1111-1112-1113-1114-1115-1116-1117-1118-1119-1120-1121-1122-1123-1124-1125-1126-1127-1128-1129-1130-1131-1132-1133-1134-1135-1136-1137-1138-1139-1140-1141-1142-1143-1144-1145-1146-1147-1148-1149-1150-1151-1152-1153-1154-1155-1156-1157-1158-1159-1160-1161-1162-1163-1164-1165-1166-1167-1168-1169-1170-1171-1172-1173-1174-1175-1176-1177-1178-1179-1180-1181-1182-1183-1184-1185-1186-1187-1188-1189-1190-1191-1192-1193-1194-1195-1196-1197-1198-1199-1200-1201-1202-1203-1204-1205-1206-1207-1208-1209-1210-1211-1212-1213-1214-1215-1216-1217-1218-1219-1220-1221-1222-1223-1224-1225-1226-1227-1228-1229-1230-1231-1232-1233-1234-1235-1236-1237-1238-1239-1240-1241-1242-1243-1244-1245-1246-1247-1248-1249-1250-1251-1252-1253-1254-1255-1256-1257-1258-1259-1260-1261-1262-1263-1264-1265-1266-1267-1268-1269-1270-1271-1272-1273-1274-1275-1276-1277-1278-1279-1280-1281-1282-1283-1284-1285-1286-1287-1288-1289-1290-1291-1292-1293-1294-1295-1296-1297-1298-1299-1300-1301-1302-1303-1304-1305-1306-1307-1308-1309-1310-1311-1312-1313-1314-1315-1316-1317-1318-1319-1320-1321-1322-1323-1324-1325-1326-1327-1328-1329-1330-1331-1332-1333-1334-1335-1336-1337-1338-1339-1340-1341-1342-1343-1344-1345-1346-1347-1348-1349-1350-1351-1352-1353-1354-1355-1356-1357-1358-1359-1360-1361-1362-1363-1364-1365-1366-1367-1368-1369-1370-1371-1372-1373-1374-1375-1376-1377-1378-1379-1380-1381-1382-1383-1384-1385-1386-1387-1388-1389-1390-1391-1392-1393-1394-1395-1396-1397-1398-1399-1400-1401-1402-1403-1404-1405-1406-1407-1408-1409-1410-1411-1412-1413-1414-1415-1416-1417-1418-1419-1420-1421-1422-1423-1424-1425-1426-1427-1428-1429-1430-1431-1432-1433-1434-1435-1436-1437-1438-1439-1440-1441-1442-1443-1444-1445-1446-1447-1448-1449-1450-1451-1452-1453-1454-1455-1456-1457-1458-1459-1460-1461-1462-1463-1464-1465-1466-1467-1468-1469-1470-1471-1472-1473-1474-1475-1476-1477-1478-1479-1480-1481-1482-1483-1484-1485-1486-1487-1488-1489-1490-1491-1492-1493-1494-1495-1496-1497-1498-1499-1500-1501-1502-1503-1504-1505-1506-1507-1508-1509-1510-1511-1512-1513-1514-1515-1516-1517-1518-1519-1520-1521-1522-1523-1524-1525-1526-1527-1528-1529-1530-1531-1532-1533-1534-1535-1536-1537-1538-1539-1540-1541-1542-1543-1544-1545-1546-1547-1548-1549-1550-1551-1552-1553-1554-1555-1556-1557-1558-1559-1560-1561-1562-1563-1564-1565-1566-1567-1568-1569-1570-1571-1572-1573-1574-1575-1576-1577-1578-1579-1580-1581-1582-1583-1584-1585-1586-1587-1588-1589-1590-1591-1592-1593-1594-1595-1596-1597-1598-1599-1600-1601-1602-1603-1604-1605-1606-1607-1608-1609-1610-1611-1612-1613-1614-1615-1616-1617-1618-1619-1620-1621-1622-1623-1624-1625-1626-1627-1628-1629-1630-1631-1632-1633-1634-1635-1636-1637-1638-1639-1640-1641-1642-1643-1644-1645-1646-1647-1648-1649-1650-1651-1652-1653-1654-1655-1656-1657-1658-1659-1660-1661-1662-1663-1664-1665-1666-1667-1668-1669-1670-1671-1672-1673-1674-1675-1676-1677-1678-1679-1680-1681-1682-1683-1684-1685-1686-1687-1688-1689-1690-1691-1692-1693-1694-1695-1696-1697-1698-1699-1700-1701-1702-1703-1704-1705-1706-1707-1708-1709-1710-1711-1712-1713-1714-1715-1716-1717-1718-1719-1720-1721-1722-1723-1724-1725-1726-1727-1728-1729-1730-1731-1732-1733-1734-1735-1736-1737-1738-1739-1740-1741-1742-1743-1744-1745-1746-1747-1748-1749-1750-1751-1752-1753-1754-1755-1756-1757-1758-1759-1760-1761-1762-1763-1764-1765-1766-1767-1768-1769-1770-1771-1772-1773-1774-1775-1776-1777-1778-1779-1780-1781-1782-1783-1784-1785-1786-1787-1788-1789-1790-1791-1792-1793-1794-1795-1796-1797-1798-1799-1800-1801-1802-1803-1804-1805-1806-1807-1808-1809-1810-1811-1812-1813-1814-1815-1816-1817-1818-1819-1820-1821-1822-1823-1824-1825-1826-1827-1828-1829-1830-1831-1832-1833-1834-1835-1836-1837-1838-1839-1840-1841-1842-1843-1844-1845-1846-1847-1848-1849-1850-1851-1852-1853-1854-1855-1856-1857-1858-1859-1860-1861-1862-1863-1864-1865-1866-1867-1868-1869-1870-1871-1872-1873-1874-1875-1876-1877-1878-1879-1880-1881-1882-1883-1884-1885-1886-1887-1888-1889-1890-1891-1892-1893-1894-1895-1896-1897-1898-1899-1900-1901-1902-1903-1904-1905-1906-1907-1908-1909-1910-1911-1912-1913-1914-1915-1916-1917-1918-1919-1920-1921-1922-1923-1924-1925-1926-1927-1928-1929-1930-1931-1932-1933-1934-1935-1936-1937-1938-1939-1940-1941-1942-1943-1944-1945-1946-1947-1948-1949-1950-1951-1952-1953-1954-1955-1956-1957-1958-1959-1960-1961-1962-1963-1964-1965-1966-1967-1968-1969-1970-1971-1972-1973-1974-1975-1976-1977-1978-1979-1980-1981-1982-1983-1984-1985-1986-1987-1988-1989-1990-1991-1992-1993-1994-1995-1996-1997-1998-1999-2000-2001-2002-2003-2004-2005-2006-2007-2008-2009-2010-2011-2012-2013-2014-2015-2016-2017-2018-2019-2020-2021-2022-2023-2024-2025-2026-2027-2028-2029-2030-2031-2032-2033-2034-2035-2036-2037-2038-2039-2040-2041-2042-2043-2044-2045-2046-2047-2048-2049-2050-2051-2052-2053-2054-2055-2056-2057-2058-2059-2060-2061-2062-2063-2064-2065-2066-2067-2068-2069-2070-2071-2072-2073-2074-2075-2076-2077-2078-2079-2080-2081-2082-2083-2084-2085-2086-2087-2088-2089-2090-2091-2092-2093-2094-2095-2096-2097-2098-2099-2100-2101-2102-2103-2104-2105-2106-2107-2108-2109-2110-2111-2112-2113-2114-2115-2116-2117-2118-2119-2120-2121-2122-2123-2124-2125-2126-2127-2128-2129-2130-2131-2132-2133-2134-2135-2136-2137-2138-2139-2140-2141-2142-2143-2144-2145-2146-2147-2148-2149-2150-2151-2152-2153-2154-2155-2156-2157-2158-2159-2160-2161-2162-2163-2164-2165-2166-2167-2168-2169-2170-2171-2172-2173-2174-2175-2176-2177-2178-2179-2180-2181-2182-2183-2184-2185-2186-2187-2188-2189-2190-2191-2192-2193-2194-2195-2196-2197-2198-2199-2200-2201-2202-2203-2204-2205-2206-2207-2208-2209-2210-2211-2212-2213-2214-2215-2216-2217-2218-2219-2220-2221-2222-2223-2224-2225-2226-2227-2228-2229-2230-2231-2232-2233-2234-2235-2236-2237-2238-2239-2240-2241-2242-2243-2244-2245-2246-2247-2248-2249-2250-2251-2252-2253-2254-2255-2256-2257-2258-2259-2260-2261-2262-2263-2264-2265-2266-2267-2268-2269-2270-2271-2272-

RACING: DORANS PRIDE PROFITS FROM FAVOURITE'S FALL TO LAND ERICSSON CHASE



Carberry conjures a fine leap from Dorans Pride at the last on his way to victory in the Ericsson Chase at Leopardstown yesterday

Florida Pearl has costly lapse

FROM CHRIS McGRATH
AT LEOPARDSTOWN

SIXY thousand Irish homes were left without electricity after the St Stephen's Day gale, but this is a nation that can always rely on horsepower. So it was that a record crowd crammed into Leopardstown yesterday, the cockles of 20,071 hearts expecting to be won by the return of Florida Pearl to the Ericsson Chase. What they saw was the pulse race, all right. As is so often the case in racing, however, it wasn't the sort of predictable drama that one might turn on with a switch. Apertotic majority expected Florida Pearl — the horse least embarrassed in recent years by the mantle of Arkle — to preserve his unbeaten record. A substantial minority of sceptics wondered what sort of monster he would have to be to beat Sun Bay, officially the best chaser in Britain, first time out. Inevitably, therefore, neither horse completed the course.

When Florida Pearl slithered into the mud at the third last, the crowd did not gasp. It roared. The din was not unlike a thunder war against the Dorans Pride caught over the fine, miles clear of two other finishers, was no doubt an

LEOPARDSTOWN DETAILS

1.30 (3m ch) 1. Mink Dandies (N Williamson, 11-8) 2. Breeze Bridge (11-8) 3. Super Dealer (11-8) 4. ALSO RAN: 5. Sydney Westwood (2-1) 11-2. Fochan King (7), 6. Fine Clara, 8. Moscow Express (1), 25. Mink Lash (2), 30. Treasures (2), 9. m. Dist. 3. 2. J. O'Grady (2), 10. 12.20, 11.40, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 13.00, 13.10, 13.20, 13.30, 13.40, 13.50, 14.00, 14.10, 14.20, 14.30, 14.40, 14.50, 15.00, 15.10, 15.20, 15.30, 15.40, 15.50, 16.00, 16.10, 16.20, 16.30, 16.40, 16.50, 17.00, 17.10, 17.20, 17.30, 17.40, 17.50, 18.00, 18.10, 18.20, 18.30, 18.40, 18.50, 19.00, 19.10, 19.20, 19.30, 19.40, 19.50, 20.00, 20.10, 20.20, 20.30, 20.40, 20.50, 21.00, 21.10, 21.20, 21.30, 21.40, 21.50, 22.00, 22.10, 22.20, 22.30, 22.40, 22.50, 23.00, 23.10, 23.20, 23.30, 23.40, 23.50, 24.00, 24.10, 24.20, 24.30, 24.40, 24.50, 25.00, 25.10, 25.20, 25.30, 25.40, 25.50, 26.00, 26.10, 26.20, 26.30, 26.40, 26.50, 27.00, 27.10, 27.20, 27.30, 27.40, 27.50, 28.00, 28.10, 28.20, 28.30, 28.40, 28.50, 29.00, 29.10, 29.20, 29.30, 29.40, 29.50, 30.00, 30.10, 30.20, 30.30, 30.40, 30.50, 31.00, 31.10, 31.20, 31.30, 31.40, 31.50, 32.00, 32.10, 32.20, 32.30, 32.40, 32.50, 33.00, 33.10, 33.20, 33.30, 33.40, 33.50, 34.00, 34.10, 34.20, 34.30, 34.40, 34.50, 35.00, 35.10, 35.20, 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Law Report December 29 1998 Court of Appeal

Life sentence for second serious offence automatic

Regina v Kelly
Regina v Sandford

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Forbes and Mr Justice Harrison
[Judgment December 15]

Provisions allowing for the imposition of an automatic life sentence on conviction for a second serious offence in section 2 of the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997 were unambiguously clear.

It was accordingly not permissible to have recourse to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms 1950 (ECHR) and 1966 as an aid to their construction.

"Exceptional" within the meaning of section 2(2) was not a term of art, but a familiar English adjective describing a circumstance which was unusual, special or uncommon.

Where, therefore, a defendant met the conditions prescribed by section 2(1) and had committed two serious offences as specified in section 2(2), his youth at the time of the first offence, the dissimilarity of the offences, the long interval between their commission and his improved conduct during the intervening period were not "exceptional" so as to relieve the court of its duty to impose an automatic life sentence as required by the Act.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held when:

1 Dismissing an appeal by Edward Kelly from a sentence of life imprisonment imposed on him by Judge Fabyan sitting at the Central Criminal Court, on conviction of the offences against the Person Act 1861;

2 Granting leave to the Attorney-General to refer a sentence imposed on Terence Sandford under section 36 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 to the court on the ground that the defendant's sentence of eight years imprisonment imposed on him by Mr Recorder Tudor on appeal from Southwark Crown Court, on conviction, inter alia, of an offence contrary to section 18 of the 1861 Act was unduly lenient.

The court quashed the eight year term and substituted a life sentence under section 2(2) of the Act.

3 Dismissing Sandford's application for leave to appeal against the sentence imposed by the recorder.

Kelly was convicted in England, at the age of 19, of the first relevant offence, namely involving use of a firearm; he served eight years of a 14 year custodial sentence and had a good record following release until commission of the instant offence.

Sandford was convicted in England, at the age of 18, of, inter alia, the first relevant offence, breach of section 18 of the Firearms Act 1968 for which he was sentenced to 12 months detention in a young of-

fender institution; he had numerous other convictions for various offences including those of violence.

Mr William Clegg, QC and Mr James Sturman, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for Kelly; Mr David Perry as amicus curiae; Mr David Perry for the Attorney-General; Mr Dorian Lovell-Park, QC, for Sandford.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the judgment of the court, said that the two cases had been heard together since a common point on the construction and application of section 2 of the 1997 Act arose. In addition to presenting his own oral argument, Mr Lovell-Park had adopted that advanced by Mr Clegg.

Construction of section 2. Mr Clegg had submitted that where the conditions in section 2(1) were satisfied there was a statutory presumption that a life sentence should be imposed; but that might be rebutted where there were exceptional circumstances relating to the offender or to the offence which justified it in not doing so.

He had relied on a number of matters as amounting cumulatively to exceptional circumstances, but most of all he had urged that on the evidence Kelly presented no continuing threat or danger to the public.

The purpose of section 2, he had

submitted, was to permit the indefinite incarceration of those who presented such a threat or danger; where neither appeared, that was an exceptional circumstance which fully justified the court in declining to impose a life sentence or rebutted the presumption that such a sentence should follow.

His Lordship said that the operation of section 2 was triggered by the commission of two offences falling within section 2(1), a disparate collection of serious offences, all punishable by a maximum of life imprisonment.

It was plain from the language of section 2(1) that the section applied irrespective of the offender's age when committing the first serious offence, the interval of time between the two and their nature.

Provided the offender, when aged 18 or more, had committed a serious offence after October 1, 1997, having previously been convicted anywhere in the United Kingdom of another serious offence, the court became subject to a mandatory duty to impose a life sentence. That duty was not correctly described as a presumption, since presumptions related to evidence.

By contrast with sections 3 and 4, under section 2 the court was not to be relieved of that duty where it was of the opinion that there were special circumstances which would make the prescribed penalty un-

just in all the circumstances. Parliament had not chosen to give the court the opportunity to exercise that judgment.

But even under section 2 the duty was not absolute.

The court was relieved of that duty where two conditions were met: (i) that the court was of the opinion that there were exceptional circumstances relating to either of the relevant offences or to the offender; and (ii) it was of the opinion that those circumstances justified the court in not imposing a life sentence.

"Exceptional" had to be construed as an ordinary, familiar English adjective, and not as a term of art. It described a circumstance which was such as to form an exception which was out of the ordinary course, or unusual, or special, or uncommon.

To be exceptional a circumstance need not be unique, or unprecedented or very rare; but it could not be one that was regularly or routinely or normally encountered.

And for the purposes of section 2(2), circumstances had not only to be exceptional, but such as, in the court's opinion, to justify it in imposing a life sentence.

In forming that opinion it had to have regard to Parliament's purpose in enacting the section as derived from the Act and from the White Paper: *Protecting the Public*

(1996 Cm 3190) which had preceded it.

Before the enactment of section 2, the court had exercised powers to impose life sentences on offenders who had committed serious offences punishable with life imprisonment where they were judged to present a serious threat to the security of the public.

It had to be inferred that Parliament intended life sentences to be imposed in cases where under the existing law they were not being so, whether because of the conditions which the courts had laid down for the exercise of the power to impose such sentences or because the courts were reluctant to exercise it.

Otherwise, there would have been no need to enact section 2. When in any ordinary case the conditions in section 2(1) were satisfied Parliament plainly intended a life sentence to be imposed.

The matters relied on singly or cumulatively as exceptional in Kelly's case could not be regarded as exceptional: his youth at the time of the first offence, the 18-year interval between it and the present offence, during eight of which he had been in custody, his abstention from crime subsequently, and the different kinds of offence committed could scarcely be called exceptional.

Nor could it be said, on the evidence, that Kelly presented no con-

tinuing threat or danger to the public. There were accordingly no exceptional circumstances within section 2(2) which justified the court in not exercising its mandatory duty to impose a life sentence.

The European Convention. Mr Clegg, in reliance on articles 3 and 5 and the observations of Lord Bridge of Harwich in *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Brind* (1991) 1 AC 696, 747, argued that the court should construe section 2 as precluding the imposition of a life sentence on a defendant who was shown not to represent a continuing danger to the public.

His Lordship said that recourse to the Convention as an aid to construction of domestic legislation was still permissible only in cases of ambiguity. The court found no ambiguity at all in section 2 and in any event did not find it possible to regard Kelly as a man who was shown not to represent a continuing danger.

Terms specified under section 28 of the 1997 Act. The period to be specified under section 28(3), as the minimum to be served before review by the Parole Board, should ordinarily, although not invariably, approximate to one half of the determinate sentence which the court would have imposed, had it not imposed a discretionary life sentence. Here that period would be three years.

The element of public protection which influenced the lengthy many determinate sentences was, in the case of a discretionary life sentence, provided by the Parole Board's scrutiny of a defendant's release.

Because a defendant would otherwise receive credit for the time spent in custody before sentence, the court should take that time into account in fixing the specified period.

Here Kelly had spent just over six months in custody before trial, that period would be taken into account so that the period specified would be two and a half years.

Sandford's case. Plainly on the facts the conditions in section 2(1) were satisfied: the recorder's conclusion that the case fell within the presumption based on the circumstances that the first relevant offence had only attracted a relatively short sentence was unsustainable and he should have imposed a life sentence as required by section 2(2).

The court, taking account of time in custody, would specify a period of three and a quarter years for the purposes of section 28(3) of the 1997 Act.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor, Crown Prosecution Service, Headquarters, O'Keefe & Flanagan.

NHS has duty to provide care

Regina v North and East Devon Health Authority, Ex parte Coughlan

Before Mr Justice Hadden

[Judgment December 11]

The statutory responsibility to provide health care services, which included the provision of general and specialist nursing care, was the responsibility of the National Health Service, and not of individual hospitals.

Mr Justice Hadden so held in the Queen's Bench Division when allowing an application of judicial review of the decision of the North and East Devon Health Authority on October 7, 1998 to cause Mardon House to be closed by Exeter and District Community Health Service NHS Trust, one of their properties providing facility for the severely disabled.

Patricia Coughlan had been moved to Mardon House in 1993 from Newton Hospital, which had been closed, on an oral assurance that Mardon House would be a home for life.

Mr Richard Gordon, QC and Mr Tim Ward for Ms Coughlan; Mr James Coughlan, QC and Miss Sibbald Ward for the health authority.

MR JUSTICE HADDEN said that the effect of the promise for life in law was that it was a clear promise to the applicant and the other patients that Mardon House would be a permanent home.

In his Lordship's view it was a clear promise that the applicant, as a person with a disability, would be able to live in Mardon House, and that a decision to break it, if unfair to the applicant and the other patients, was equivalent to a breach of contract.

That promise was one from which a public authority could reasonably be expected to have intended to create a legal obligation. The burden of establishing that fell on the health authority, and the health authority had not established an overriding public interest which demanded that the promise be broken.

His Lordship accepted Mr Gordon's submissions on the question of nursing care that nothing in either the National Health Service Community Care Act 1990 nor in the Health Service Regulations 1984 required the health authority to provide nursing care for meeting continuing health care needs, altered the statutory responsibilities of the health authorities to provide health services including nursing care.

As a result, both general and specialist nursing services remained the responsibility of the health authorities. Thus the respondent

authority was wrong in law to assume that the law had changed, and that it was no longer entitled to rely on the promise for life or entered into to provide or arrange long term nursing care in an NHS setting and/or that there had been a transfer to social services departments of such responsibilities.

That misconception had caused the health authority to take into account irrelevant matters when arriving at its eligibility criteria and also specifically in relation to long term disability treatment at Mardon House which had led to the run down in the provision of such services. The authority's eligibility criteria were outside the guidance.

The necessary elements of lawful assessment were those set out in the guidance and, in particular, to identify alternative placements to Mardon House which would be in the best interests of the patient. The respondent authority had not complied with those elements.

His Lordship concluded that the authority was under an obligation to identify alternative placements but failed to do so or indeed even to attempt to do so because of what it thought to be the situation which prevailed. Therefore the health authority had acted unfairly and irrationally in reaching its decision to close Mardon House.

Solicitors: T. V. Edwards, Tower Hamlets, Bevan Ashford, Bristol.

Balancing exercise in insolvency

Inland Revenue Commissioners v Duce and Another

Before Miss Heather Williamson, QC

[Judgment December 4]

The court had to conduct a balancing exercise between the seriousness of the irregularities giving rise to the revocation and the likely attitude of the creditors to any future proposals for a voluntary arrangement when the court was asked to make any directions under section 262(4)(b) of the Insolvency Act 1986 as to the summoning of any further creditors' meeting following the revocation of the court's approval of a voluntary arrangement.

Miss Heather Williamson, QC, sitting as a deputy Chancery Division judge, so held when allowing in part an appeal by Mr Roland Duce from Judge de Mille at Peterborough County Court on July 16, 1998 on the application of the petitioning creditor, the Inland Revenue Commissioners, inter alia, refusing to order a further meeting of the defendant's creditors pursuant to section 262(4)(b) of the 1986 Act.

Mr Guy Newey for the commissioners; Mr David Alan Turner for Mr Duce; Mr Sebastian Prentis for Mr Duce's nominee, Mr Windatt.

HER LADYSHIP said that this appeal concerned the judge's direction that no further creditors' meeting

be held after the revocation of the court's approval of the proposed voluntary arrangement by reason of the respondents' non-disclosure of the identity of a creditor which had volunteered to purchase assets belonging to the debtor at a discount in full and final settlement of its claim, also of possible connections between the debtor and the creditor, and of the shareholding of the would-be purchaser company.

Mr Eaton Turner contended that the learned judge had erred by finding that deliberate concealment had taken place without the cross-examination of the respondent, and that the judge had failed to take into account the interests of other, independent creditors, some of whom had supported the voluntary arrangement.

While it was not clear in the present case whether the respondents were guilty of deliberate concealment or merely sloppiness, her Ladyship was of the opinion that the judge had not exercised his discretion wrongly in inferring that the former had been the case.

The fact that a defendant's intention had to be given to the position of the other creditors. While both the truth and accuracy of any proposal put forward by the debtor and proper consideration of the accuracy and viability of that proposal were matters to be taken seriously, the duty of the court was to be a watchdog for the interests of the other creditors.

Those creditors would be justifiably unhappy if the agreement were revoked and they were left to prove in more expensive bankruptcy proceedings the claims which they would not have taken a sufficiently dim view of the debtor's conduct to vote down the proposals.

A balancing exercise had to be undertaken between the seriousness of the irregularities and the possible attitude of the other creditors to them. In the present case the creditors ought not to be prevented from reconsidering the voluntary arrangement with full knowledge of the facts.

Proceedings on the bankruptcy petition should be stayed, giving the respondent a period to enable an interim order to be sought on a revised proposal to be put together and then put to the creditors. If no application was made during the stay then bankruptcy proceedings could continue.

Solicitors: Solicitor, Inland Revenue; Eytan Morris Winfield, Northampton; Hewitson Becke & Shaw, Cambridge.

Trial judge granted leave to appeal

Regina v Bansal

As a matter of general principle, the grant of leave to appeal against conviction to the Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, was exercised ordinarily by members of the court, who might be a single judge or the full court itself.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division (Lord Justice Pill, Mr Justice Turner and Judge Advocate General Rant, QC) so stated on November 24, when dismissing the appeal of Sundeep Singh Bansal against his conviction, by a majority of 11 to 1, on July 30, 1998 at Leicester Crown Court (Mr Assistant Recorder Maw and a jury) of violent disorder.

The assistant recorder had granted a certificate of fitness for appeal.

MR JUSTICE TURNER said that the provisions of section 1(2) of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968 enabled an appeal to be brought when the judge of the court of trial granted a certificate that the case was fit for appeal, but it was to be exercised only where the judge was of the opinion that a trial judge would take upon himself that power, ordinarily exercised by members of the Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, only if there were exceptional features.

The circumstances in which a court of trial should grant a certificate were very limited indeed: see *Archbold's Criminal Pleading, Evidence and Practice* (1998 edition, 1982).

The circumstances in this case did not amount to the sort of exceptional reasons which had to exist before a trial judge should assume the mantle of a member of the court of appeal.

However, the matter had come before the court and the appeal against conviction had been considered.

It was not required to make a payment into court in order to protect her position but might make an offer under Order 22, rule 1(4) of the Rules of the Supreme Court. The court had to take the offer into account under Order 62, rule 9(1)(d).

It was important not to let the judge's discretion by laying down general principles. Nevertheless, in the ordinary way, an offer made under Order 22, rule 1(4) should be one which disposed of the proceedings or an issue in the proceedings.

It was difficult for a defendant to make an effective offer, but not impossible.

Whereas the offer in *Butcher v Wolfe and Another* (The Times November 9, 1998) not only constituted an issue in the case but concluded the totality of the proceedings, in the present case the offer was a breakdown of the offer into component parts, the defendant's offer did no such thing.

The defendant's offer was made subject to the outcome of the appeal and as such did not finally resolve anything.

His Lordship did not accept that the judge was exercising his discretion in relation to his costs order. The judge effectively accepted the defendant's submission and there was no real analysis of the effect of the offer. Accordingly, his Lordship did not think that in the appeal the court was concerned with the question of interfering with the exercise of the judge's discretion.

If wrong about that, his Lordship would conclude that the judge did not exercise a discretion on the right principles. In his Lordship's

judgment, the plaintiff having succeeded in recovering damages was entitled to her costs in the ordinary way.

The letter was not an offer which was required to accept without placing her at risk as to costs.

LORD JUSTICE SCHIEMANN, agreeing, said that he saw no objection in principle to encouraging a costs regime under which the question as to which party should bear the costs attributable to quantifying the amount of damages was resolved in the light of the letter written by the defendant.

The fact that a defendant made it clear that he wished to test the correctness of the judge's finding on causation in the Court of Appeal should not, it seemed to his Lordship, lead to a situation in which the letter must be ignored.

However, what weight one gave to the letter seemed to be a question which fell to be answered on the facts of a particular case.

In circumstances where at the time the letter was written the judge had already made findings on causation, and the defendant had indicated a desire to challenge them in the Court of Appeal, relevant considerations for the judge in the exercise of his discretion as to costs included the desirability of the Court of Appeal having a breakdown as to the make-up of the figures in relation to various heads of damages, the desirability of doing everything to minimise the possibility of a trial on quantification as a result of any decision of the Court of Appeal on the question of causation.

It was not necessary to establish the defendant's position as to costs at the time the letter was written. A recipient of an offer was not entitled to take a *Calderbank* letter at face value. There was, in an appropriate case, an obligation to explore the offer made, if some modification or addition to the terms of the offer could produce a settlement of the issue or issue involved.

In the circumstances of the case and in the light of the encouragement that the court was giving to the increasing use of *Calderbank* offers to mitigate the rising costs of litigation, his Lordship would dismiss the appeal against the costs order made by the judge.

Solicitors: Collins, Warford, Berryman, Lane, Mawer, Manchester.

LORD JUSTICE ROCH, agreeing on the effect of Orders 22 and 62 but dissenting on the question of the judge's discretion as to costs.

The sum offered was realistic and in the outcome more generous compensation than the plaintiff had achieved. His Lordship agreed with the approach of the Court of Appeal in *Butcher v Wolfe and Another* to *Calderbank* letters, offers to settle without prejudice as to costs.

In his Lordship's judgment, the plaintiff could not show that he submitted at the hearing of August 1, 1997 something of value which she could not have expected to get.

The question posed in *The Maria* (1993) QB 780, 790: "Has the plaintiff won anything of value which he could not have won without fighting the action through to the final?" was equally to be asked where the hearing, the costs of which were under consideration by the judge, was the hearing of part of the action dealing with a discrete issue or discrete issues.

A recipient of an offer was not entitled to take a *Calderbank* letter at face value. There was, in an appropriate case, an obligation to explore the offer made, if some modification or addition to the terms of the offer could produce a settlement of the issue or issue involved.

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Morgans v Director of Public Prosecutions

Before Lord Justice Kennedy and Mr Justice Sullivan

[Judgment December 7]

Time began to run, for the purposes of section 11(2) of the Computer Misuse Act 1990, once evidence came to the knowledge of the prosecutor and not when the prosecutor came to the opinion that the evidence was sufficient to warrant proceedings.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in allowing an appeal by Stephen Alan Morgans by way of case stated from the decision of the Crown Court (Mr Recorder J. C. A. Hughes, QC and Justices) on May 29, 1997 of his appeal against conviction before the Bow Street Magistrate on January 22, 1997, on five charges alleging that he had obtained unauthorised access to a computer system contrary to section 1(1) of the 1990 Act, and two charges alleging fraudulent mis-use of a telecommunications system contrary to the Telecommunications Act 1984.

Mr Lionel Blackman for Mr Morgans; Mr Ian Brook for the prosecution.

LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY said that British Telecommunications' network special investigations manager was asked by a detective constable of the Computer Crime Unit of New Scotland Yard for assistance in a case of suspected hacking, namely using a public telecommunications system for the purpose of obtaining unauthorised access to computer systems.

A call logger was fitted to Mr Morgans' telephone number. By consulting the printouts provided by the logger with computer printouts recording the telecommunications networks of three companies it was possible to show that Mr Morgans' telephone number was responsible for accessing the computer controlled telephone networks of companies and securing access to that part of the victim company's computer system enabling an unau-

thorised user access to an outside line at the company's expense, and he had made many calls to the Philippines.

Additionally Mr Morgans' phone number had been used to search for a mail box with a default password identical to its extension number.

On September 13, 1996 Mr Morgans was arrested by DC Waller and interviewed, then further interviewed on January 10, 1997. By the end of January 1996, DC Waller had all the material evidence on which the prosecution was brought.

On February 16, 1996 the matter was submitted to the Crown Prosecution Service for advice. DC Waller then fell ill and on August 5, 1996 Mr Morgans was charged by another officer.

On July 18, 1996 the principal crown prosecutor obtained advice from counsel and by August 30, 1996 he formed the opinion that he had sufficient evidence to warrant proceedings and later signed a certificate to that effect.

The questions for the opinion of the High Court were: Whether the court was right in ruling that section 9 of the interception of Communications Act 1984 did not prevent it from receiving evidence the printouts from the logging devices placed on Mr Morgans' line.

Was the court right in holding that the evidence was sufficient to warrant proceedings under section 11 of the 1990 Act, and for the purposes of section 11 of the 1990 Act, was the Crown Prosecution Service and therefore in light of the certificate that all the charges were brought within the relevant time limit?

Did the time limit under section 11 of the 1990 Act run from when the evidence came into the possession of the prosecutor, or from when he came to his opinion that the evidence was sufficient to warrant proceedings?

Section 11(2) of the 1990 Act provided that the time limit for proceedings could only be brought within six months from the date on which evidence sufficient in the opinion of

the prosecutor to warrant the proceedings came to his knowledge.

Admissibility of evidence. His Lordship said that there was no warrant signed by the secretary of state and he knew of no evidence to suggest that any person in whom a communication had been sent had consented to the interception.

His Lordship referred to *R v Preston and Others* (1994) 2 AC 130; *R v Stang* (1993) AC 402; *R v Gough* (1992) AC 646; and *R v Aylmer and Another* (1997) 1 WLR 1092.

He also referred to the recent case of *R v Owen; R v Stephen* (The Times November 11, 1998) where counsel had submitted that the effect of the 1985 Act was to render the relevant evidence obtained by interception of a telephone conversation between a prisoner in custody on remand and his wife inadmissible. No warrant had been obtained and it was not clear whether the interception was consensual.

In reliance on *Rasool* the court rejected that submission, saying that "in respect of anything other than a warrant case that argument must be wrong at least at the level of that court."

LORD JUSTICE BURNETT said that *Effik*, in the Court of Appeal, was overruled by *Preston* only to the extent that it related to warrantless interceptions. That was the ratio of the case, and their Lordships were bound by it.

Since their Lordships had to apply the approach in *Effik*, in the Court of Appeal, not merely to consensual interceptions, but also to interceptions falling within subsection 1(1)(a) of the 1985 Act it would seem to follow that the first question would be answered in the affirmative: see *Owen* and *Stephen*.

The Prosecution. His Lordship said that anyone who made or was actively instrumental in making or procuring a charge was to be treated as having procured it, and so was called the first question would be answered in the affirmative: see *Owen* and *Stephen*.

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In this case it was the police officer who on August 5, 1996 charged

the appellant, so it seemed to his Lordship that until the CPS actively took over the prosecution the police officer was the prosecutor.

There was no information from the charging officer as to the knowledge of the case. He might not have been involved until after DC Waller fell ill, and his personal knowledge might not have extended back for more than six months from August 6, 1996, but for the purposes of section 11(2) the knowledge of DC Waller could be said to be that of the charging officer.

Once DC Waller had all the material on which the prosecution was eventually brought then for the purposes of section 11(2), the time began to run.

Time Limits. His Lordship said, agreeing with Mr Blackman's submission, that the words "sufficient in the opinion of the prosecutor to warrant the proceedings" referred to the evidence, and that the prosecutor would not have to form his opinion at the time the evidence was obtained, but that he must have formed his opinion at the time the evidence was obtained, and that the prosecutor would not have to form his opinion at the time the evidence was obtained, but that he must have formed his opinion at the time the evidence was obtained.

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LAW

From far-reaching to far-out

By any standards, 1998 was a vintage year for award-winning oddities in the legal world

The most extraordinary legal events of 1998 concerned the trials of Bill Clinton. His legal problems provide the background to many of the award-winning incidents in this annual review of the legal year.

The legal submission of the year has to be that of Robert Bennett, counsel to the President, in response to claims by Paula Jones that she could give evidence about "distinguishing characteristics" she had noticed when the President allegedly exposed himself to her. Mr Bennett announced that "in terms of size, shape, direction, whatever the devious mind wants to concoct, the President is a normal man". The President was witness of the year, telling the grand jury that the accuracy of an earlier statement "depends on what the meaning of the word 'is' is".

Zealous prosecutor of the year — any year — was Kenneth Starr, whose report into the President's wrongdoing (Footnote 162: "Earlier in the evening, Ms Monica Lewinsky had removed her underwear" told America more than it wanted to know. Poorest legal advice of 1998 was that given by William ("I'm the most famous person in the world") Ginsburg to his client, Monica Lewinsky: that she should undertake a photo session with a magazine on Malibu Beach to help her to "get in touch with her imprisoned libido".

In 1998, as in all previous years, there were many nominations for worst judge. In Lord Bingham, California, Judge John Compas-Casas ordered a bailiff to administer a 50,000-volt shock from a stun belt to a prisoner in her courtroom as punishment for interrupting proceedings. In Washington state, Judge Ralph Baldwin resigned after the judicial board brought charges against him for inviting the jury and lawyers in a drink-driving case "to stay for a cold one" at the end of the proceedings, then telling them he was going to drive home.

Here, Mr Justice Harman resigned after the Court of Appeal criticised him for taking 20 months to deliver a judgment. The winner, however, is Judge Richard Deacon Jones of Omaha, Nebraska, who admitted disciplinary charges that he had signed court papers with the name Adolf Hitler, thrown litigious fireworks into a colleague's office ("I was venting"), and set bail bonds for "a zillion dollars".

The judicial question of 1998 was the inquiry by Mr Justice Poppelwell to Linford Christie during the athlete's evidence in his successful libel action against false allegations of drug-taking. "What is Linford Christie's lunchbox?"

Mr Christie explained that it was "a reference [by journalists] to my genitals".

Difficult client of the past 12 months was Geoffrey Boycott, convicted in France of assaulting a former girlfriend. During a long day's play in Grasse, he told court officials to "shut up" so he could speak, and complained that "Everybody's talking French". There were many nominations for juror of the year. At Lewes Crown Court, the fire brigade had to be called to remove the handcuffs (an exhibit in the case) that the jury foreman had tried on. In Canada,

a woman was convicted of obstructing justice by having a love affair with a man on trial for murder while she was serving on the jury that acquitted him. At Newcastle upon Tyne Crown Court, a man was excluded from the jury after asking the judge to tell him the date of birth of the defendant so that he could draw up an astrological chart to help him to decide on guilt or innocence.

But the winner of the award is a jury in Jasper, Georgia, which issued a statement explaining why it had refused to give a verdict in the case of a man charged with disorderly conduct for calling a tax assessor a liar. "We strongly feel that all parties involved in this case should be sent to bed without supper and not allowed to watch television for a week."

The House of Lords decided, 3-2, that General Augusto Pinochet of Chile was not entitled to immunity from extradition to Spain. The general then successfully applied for a rehearing on the ground that there was the appearance of bias by Lord Hoffmann, one of the law lords in the majority, who had failed to declare his links with Amnesty International, a party to the appeal. The importance of justice being seen to be done was recognised at Warwick Crown Court, where a judge stopped a trial after discovering that the defendant was his milkman.

Other important cases included the Court of Appeal judgment dismissing the appeal by the Moors murderer, Myra Hindley against the decision of Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, that she should remain in prison for the rest of her life. The European Court of Justice decided that sex discrimination law does not prohibit less favourable treatment of homosexuals and lesbians. The European Court of Human Rights ruled that English law does not violate transsexuals' rights. It also awarded £10,000 compensation to a boy viciously caned by his stepfather.

There are three awards this year for selfless devotion to judicial duty. In Birmingham County Court, Judge Anthony Cleary rejected the complaints by disappointed holiday-makers about the standards at their Malta hotel, after the judge had adjourned the case to enable him to fly to Malta to see the hotel for himself.

At Truro Crown Court jurors in a rape trial were sent home early so that they could watch the opening match in the World Cup finals, the judge expressing concern that otherwise it might be "unfair" to the defendant because of the risk that the jury might rush their deliberations. Similarly, at Southwark Crown Court, on the afternoon when England played their first match in the tournament, the judge sent home at lunchtime a jury considering verdicts in a fraud case, explaining: "I expect your minds are on football."

Because of the unfair conduct of Lord Chief Justice Goddard at a trial in 1953, the Court of Appeal (presided over by Lord Chief Justice Bingham of Cornhill) allowed an appeal brought by relatives of Derek Bentley, who was hanged after his conviction for murder. After another miscarriage of justice, the Court of Appeal freed Deirdre Rachid of Coronation Street, Weatherfield, from a prison sentence imposed for a fraud she had not committed. Statements of



On the legal merry-go-round (clockwise, from top left): Monica Lewinsky; Coronation Street's Deirdre Rachid celebrates freedom; Linford Christie clears up a mystery; Mr Justice Harman; Brigitte Bardot rushes to Woolie's aid; Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor; Richard Branson; Rupert Allason; Myra Hindley; and President Clinton

support for Mrs Rachid were made by Tony Blair, William Hague and "Mad" Frankie Fraser, who told *The Sun* that "everyone in Britain is hoping Deirdre gets out".

Other events in the criminal justice system included the Attorney-General's decision not to pursue fraud allegations against Judge Richard Gee because of the defendant's ill health; the right spent in prison by Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, and Lady Woolf (and other persons of good character) for charity; and the appointment of David Calvert-Smith, QC, as the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, was allowed by the House of Lords to discard his breeches, rights and buckled shoes, except on ceremonial occasions. Legal dress posed unusual problems at Bristol Crown Court, where a judge decided that he, the lawyers, clerks and ushers should remove their wigs and gowns because a defendant had a phobia about uniforms.

The libel courts provided their customary entertainment this year. The Court of Appeal held that the opera singer Jessye Norman could not seriously suggest that *Classic CD* magazine had defamed her by reporting her as saying, when trapped in revolving doors and advised to turn sideways: "Honey, I ain't got no sideways".

The spy-novel writer and former Tory MP, Rupert Allason, lost his claim for libel against a book version of the TV programme *Have I Got News For You* for calling him "a conniving little shit". A libel jury accepted that Richard Branson had told the truth in stating that GTC's Guy Snowden had offered a bribe to deter Mr Branson from competing

to run the National Lottery. Unfortunate defendant of 1998 was Immigration, a dog sentenced to death by a magistrate in Tanzania because it bore the name of "a respected government department". There was a better result for Woolie, when two Scottish judges lifted a death sentence imposed under the Dangerous Dogs Act for chasing and barking at a postman. One of the dog's supporters in court, Brigitte Bardot, said that she was "so happy", adding: "Thank you for justice."

Each year there is hot competition for the award of unpromising lawsuit of the previous 12 months. In 1998 mention must be made of the man claiming to be the illegitimate son of Edward VIII who lost his battle at Portsmouth County Court to challenge the Queen for the ownership of Balmoral and Sandringham. Rejecting a complaint by a car dealer who bought a rural house from his neighbouring farmer made too much mess, Judge Victor Hall in Leicester County Court explained that, in the countryside, "mud is inevitable". In Minnesota, a judge ruled that a student could not sue her former boyfriend for the cost of her dress after he cancelled their date.

But this award, like so many others this year, goes to litigation involving Bill Clinton. The mayor of a Jordanian village sued the President for \$5 million for calling his dog Buddy. Sheikh Badi, pronounced "buddy", claimed psychological distress and loss of earnings because locals were calling him "Clinton's dog". The President's lawyers have, no doubt, given the President the good news that this is one legal battle he can be optimistic about winning in 1999.

© The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.

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Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Company	Price	Change	%	Dividend	Yield	P/E
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES						
...
BANKS						
...
BEVERAGES, PUBS & REST						
...
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS						
...
ELECTRICITY						
...
BUILDING MATERIALS						
...
CHEMICALS						
...
ENGINEERING						
...
CONSTRUCTION						
...
DISTRIBUTORS						
...
ENGINEERING, VEHICLES						
...
FOOD MANUFACTURERS						
...
HEALTHCARE						
...
HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT						
...
INSURANCE						
...
INVESTMENT TRUSTS						
...
LEISURE & HOTELS						
...
MEDIA						
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MINEING						
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OIL & GAS						
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OTHER FINANCIAL						
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PHARMACEUTICALS						
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PRINTING & PAPER						
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PROPERTY						
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RETAILERS, FOOD						
...
RETAILERS, GENERAL						
...
TELECOMMUNICATIONS						
...
TRANSPORT						
...
WATER						
...
ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET						
...
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France poised to relinquish Thomson stake

BY OUR BUSINESS STAFF

THE French Government appears ready to relinquish its stake in Thomson-CSF to ensure the country's flagship defence electronics group is not excluded from a merger with GEC or British Aerospace.

Denis Ranque, chairman of Thomson-CSF, said France's Socialist Government would reduce its shareholding from 40 per cent at present to below 10 per cent if this ensured the company

would not be excluded from a merger.

There are growing fears in France that state ownership of Thomson-CSF will be a large obstacle that prevents the company from participating in the wide-ranging restructuring of Europe's defence industry that is now under way.

Britain's GEC has admitted that a merger of its Marconi Electronics Systems subsidi-

ary with Thomson-CSF is one of the options being pursued.

Other options include a merger with British Aerospace and an alliance with America's Lockheed Martin. These alliances could also embrace Dasa, the aerospace business of DaimlerChrysler, the US-German company.

Yesterday Mr Ranque said he was confident an agreement could be reached that included Thomson-CSF. "I have had successful discussions with the French Government that make me fully convinced that if such a deal is presented to it, conditional upon a significantly reduced government holding, there will be no problem on its part," he said.

Marconi and Thomson-CSF are Europe's two largest defence electronics firms, working in complementary fields such as missiles, sonar and radar.

A merger would enable them to pool resources, including research and development expenditure, but analysts say it could be complicated by differences in profitability, making merger terms difficult. Marconi had an operating margin of 10.3 per cent at its half-year, nearly twice that of Thomson's 5.5 per cent.

Last week GEC announced it was considering the demerger of its defence and aerospace businesses in preparation for a merger move.

It also announced a joint venture with Italy's Finmeccanica, to be called Alenia Marconi, forming the main supplier of missile systems outside America. A third development was the creation of a space industry joint venture to supply satellites in partnership with France's Lagardere, Dasa and Finmeccanica.

M&S sued by German china maker

BY FRASER NELSON

MARKS & SPENCER is being sued by a German maker of luxury china that alleges the UK retailer is selling cheap copies of its best-selling range of ceramic tableware.

Hutschenreuther, which sells its £11.95-a-plate range through Harrods and House of Fraser, contends that M&S has copied its Madley range of teapots, plates, cups and saucers.

The company has accused M&S of putting out an inferior quality, £6.99-a-plate version named Blackberry in the same blue and yellow colours.

It has issued a High Court writ demanding that M&S hands over all its Blackberry range and pays damages.

Hutschenreuther, which has been trading under its own name in the UK for 50

years, said: "There is a difference between following fashion and copying someone else's ideas. We have got to take action to protect the brand name."

M&S has denied the allegations and intends to fight the writ.

Both Madley and Blackberry are sets of china ceramics, but are not exactly identical in design.

Hutschenreuther says the M&S version is of inferior quality and its teapot does not include a small grid that catches tea leaves.

Hutschenreuther said its Madley range has become its best-selling product worldwide. Britain is its fifth-largest export market, beating France and the United States.

It is owned by Winterling Porzellan, a private German company.



The Government said Hong Kong's slack export performance in November was mainly the result of a plunge in import demand in Japan

HONG KONG'S exports fell 9.3 per cent year-on-year to HK\$13.1 billion (about £8.7 billion) in November as demand in key east Asian markets remained weak, official data showed yesterday (a Correspondent writes).

The November data marked an improvement from the previous month, when the val-

Hong Kong exports drop

ue of total exports fell by 17.5 per cent.

A government spokesman said the slack export performance in November was mainly because of a plunge in import demand in Japan.

But more recently exports to other markets such as America and the European Union were affected by a moderation in their import demand, he said.

Exports to the mainland

of China also continued to fall.

For the first 11 months of 1998 as a whole, a visible trade deficit of HK\$4.7 billion, equivalent to 5.7 per cent of the value of imports, was recorded.

This was much smaller than the deficit of HK\$45.8 billion in the same period in 1997.

The narrowing in the visible trade deficit in 1998 reflected an adjustment in domestic demand after the regional financial turmoil, which led to a marked decline in imports retained for local use.

UK chip plants in doubt

BY OUR BUSINESS STAFF

UNCERTAINTY about the future of two UK computer chip plants is set to continue into 1999 after the two South Korean electronics companies that own the sites failed to reach agreement over a merger.

The chip company LG Semicon has delayed completion of its plant at Newport in South Wales. Last year another South Korean company, Hyundai, postponed plans to build its own chip plant at Dunfermline.

The plants had been expected to create 3,000 jobs between them, but the developments fell foul of the Asian economic crisis. In September the two companies agreed to merge their chip-making businesses as a part of a wider overhaul of South Korea's leading conglomerates. The future of the two plants was left uncertain pending completion of the merger plans.

But the deal has foundered

over which of the two companies should take control of the merged business. Arthur D. Little, the US consultancy company brought in to advise on the merger, recommended that Hyundai should take control. LG Semicon immediately rejected the proposal.

The South Korean Government has now threatened to call in loans made to LG Semicon unless it accepts Hyundai as senior partner in the merger.

Government cash to boost green energy

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

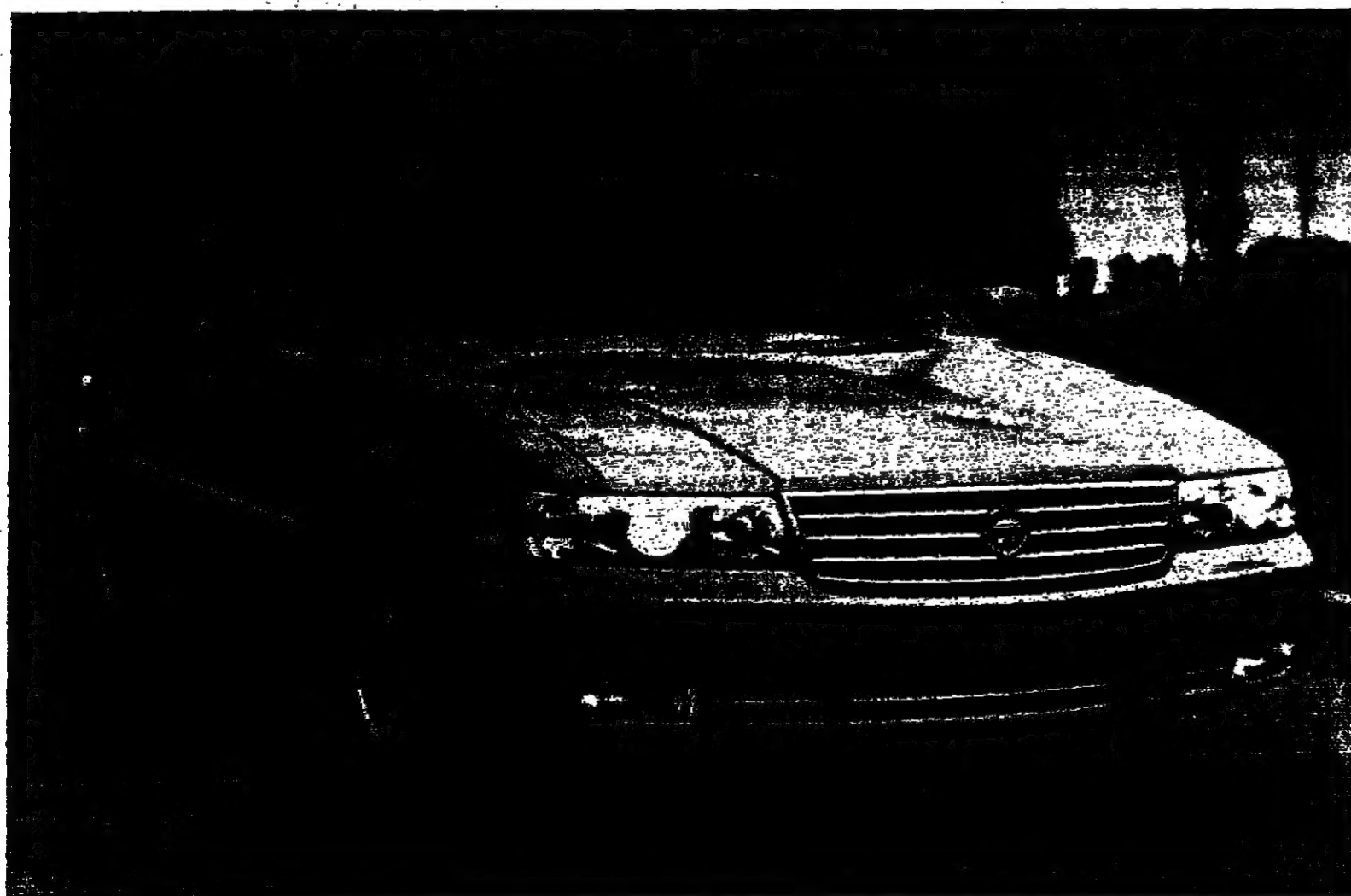
THE Government will next month set out plans to boost green energy with cash from the Department of Trade and Industry to help research into power from renewable sources.

However a DTI consultation paper will also highlight the costs of renewable forms of energy and could throw into doubt the Government's target of ensuring that 10 per cent

of power is generated by green sources by 2010. A target of 5 per cent by 2005 is expected to be achieved.

The paper will be the Government's first statement on environmentally friendly power. It is expected to continue the obligation on regional electricity companies to develop green power, but will provide them with a subsidy to do so.

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Not in front of the children, nor the parents

The extended family allegedly came to grief for all sorts of complex reasons: to do with the mobility of labour, the increase in marital discord and the sociological phenomenon that sociologists call "always" writing books about. They might do better to consider the possibility that the extended family has fled the television set, in order to avoid further embarrassment.

This thought bled my youthful goodwill when a pretty woman fell off the Titanic and saved herself by clinging to the — what shall I call this? — bulge in the trousers of the man leaning on the deck rail. The (oh all right) erection in question, shown in close-up, belonged to one of Harry Enfield's many personas, this one engaged in spoofing this year's just movie.

Harry Enfield's "Yule Log Cams" (BBC1) was transmitted at 9.45 last night and lasted 46 minutes. Television critics get pre-

view tapes so I was able to watch it, alone, in my office. But you have to wonder what a Christmas gathering from nine to 10, all inclined to stay up later at this time of the year, is expected to make of such a scene, not to mention several others in the same programme.

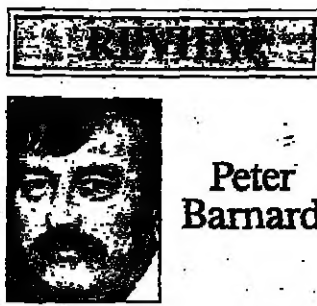
Enfield is a very funny man and he was in good form for much of this show. His Honest John car dealer, who tells customers the truth about themselves as well as about the cars ("What an ugly baby!"), and the homophobic partner, who is surprised to discover that gay people can drive cars, are both vastly entertaining. Enfield has not lately come up with a character to match Stavros and Loadsmoney and he is too prone to exploiting job stereotypes as the Telecomedians, but he is an original talent, so more power to him.

Things, it is thought, that comics need reins. It is simply true for

television's big players, including of course the BBC, to claim that competition is what hits audience share. The fact is that the audience, or at least the family audience, is becoming half afraid to turn on the set.

Enfield could have been terrific without embarrassing anyone — and I am talking about embarrassment, not offence, comedy having a duty to cause the latter — so why don't the BBC suits tell him that the entire audience does not consist of people who staggered from single-sex schools with hang-ups about body parts? Some of us are actually quite sophisticated.

One thing any extended family can watch without embarrassment and with a guarantee of unanimity is a programme showing people who drive badly. Obviously none of us is in this category, although to judge by the longevity of Police,



Peter Barnard

Camera, Action! (ITV) half the population must have appeared on these police video clips already.

Last night's programme strongly resembled a repeat, but was in fact, um, a near-repeat: a compilation from past programmes glued together with some new material by the presenter, Alistair Stewart, who has the countenance of a Scottish Presbyterian preaching agin' sin.

"The most astonishing clips of mindless motoring" he promised us. And delivered.

I particularly enjoyed the scene on a motorway where the driver of a car towing a large boat leant out of the window and handed a book to the passenger in a car passing in the next lane at 52mph. I could not identify the book, though the chances of it being a copy of the Highway Code seem slim. There were moments when the compilers of the Code appear to have been moonlighting as Stewart's scriptwriters. "Concentration and care are essential on motorways at all times" and "producing fumes can obscure the view of other drivers". Get away with you, you're having me on.

This sort of programme can be enjoyed with the sound switched off. Much like Formula One motor racing, we switch on for the accidents and the *Keystone Kops* atmosphere as idiots in Range

Rovers lurch across fields and suspend themselves between a hedge and a ditch.

There seems to be every hope of an Italian version of the show soon, for Stewart mentioned last night that until 1923 the Italians drove on the left in town and on the right in the countryside. They stopped doing that in 1923. No, they changed the law in 1923. One year soon, they will get around to announcing it.

The most interesting aspect of *Ideal Homes?* (Channel 4) last night was that it showed how limited are the ambitions of modern house designers than was once the case. The programme marked 90 years of the *Ideal Home* Exhibition at Olympia by looking at some past winners of the annual competition to design a house for the future and comparing them with the work of Nigel Coates, who won

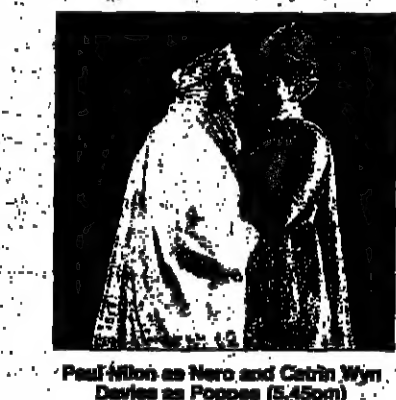
this year. Coates built a house that certainly looked radical. It had a star-shaped base with an upper tier on stilts, as if the Flood had receded and Noah's Ark had come to rest on giant bushes. But Coates works in the present tense with the present realities: "It couldn't be too highbrow, it had to feel like a house that you might want to live in."

And is it? Hard to tell from the television tour of the one they built at Olympia. Various gawpers were overheard, "quite nice" and "horrible" and "like a padded cell": the sort of people you dread coming round when your house is for sale. And, anyway, these were remarks about the parts, not the whole.

Coates hopes that a few might be built, perhaps a whole estate. I hope so: it looked stunning to me. Of course, it will need a television in every room, the way things are going.

- 8.00am** News Weather (7) (7594261)
- 7.10** Children's BBC: Pudding Pops (7594675) 7.15 Teletubbies (7595547) 7.40 You're Treasure Hunt (7595547) 8.00 To Me, To You (75978) 8.30 Taz-Mania (75943) 8.00 Sweet Valley High (75933) 8.30 The Fairy Game (759707) 8.50 Teletubbies (7594707)
- 10.30** News Weather (7) (7545417)
- 10.30** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (1998) The sewer-dwelling superheros crack down on a New York crime spree initiated by their arch-enemy Shredder. Directed by Steve Barron. (7) (757378)
- 11.55** Wipeout: Celebrity Special (7) (7591725)
- 12.20pm** Laughing for Ages (7) (7575728)
- 12.30** The Weather Show (7) (7555538)
- 1.00** News Weather (7) (7570598)
- 1.15** Midsommar: The Ball Under My Skin (7) (7594578)
- 1.40** Rats: Dogs' Home Christmas at the refuge (7571523)
- 2.10** 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea: Two-part adaptation of Jules Verne's tale, starring Michael Caine. Concludes tomorrow (1/2) (7) (759392)
- 3.35** The World's Strongest Man Heat 3 (7) (7590522)
- 4.05** Mr. Bean (1998) Comedy starring Hugh Hoggart as a child-hating wrecker who reluctantly agrees to babysit two spoilt brats. Directed by Michael Gottlieb. (7) (757894)
- 5.25** Blue Peter: The Best Bits (7) (7556725)
- 5.55** News Weather (7) (7571435)
- 6.20** News Weather (7) (7571435)
- 6.35** Regional News Magazine (759894)
- 6.50** Only Fools and Horses: Another chance to see the two-part Christmas special from 1991, in which Rodney gets a chance to see his father for a holiday in the Florida sun. Concludes tomorrow (1/2) (7) (752417)
- 7.30** EastEnders: Tiffy considers leaving Walford (7) (759504)
- 8.10** 60 to 30: With: Nicky Katt: Nicky Katt spends a week in Uganda overseeing the settlement of 15 orphaned and abused children in a remote island sanctuary (7) (757345)
- 8.30** The Echo: Two-part adaptation of the novel by Michael Crichton, starring Clive Owen, Jodie Richardson and Anton Lesser. Concludes tomorrow (1/2) (7) (756553)
- 10.15** News: Regional News: Weather (7) (757000)
- 10.45** Comic Relief: 50 Celebrations of the Queen's Golden Anniversary (7) (757357)
- 11.45** 42 Up Part one: Catching up with the children who appeared in the original Seven Up documentary, meeting Tony the East End lad who dreamt of being a jockey, and Nick the Yorkshire boy who left for America (1/2) (7) (757357)
- 12.50am** Doctor at Large (1997) Newly qualified medic Simon Sparrow leaves the hospital and travels to the country in search of a job. Medical cases, starring Dirk Bogarde. Directed by Ralph Thomas. (7) (757272)
- 2.20** Weather (7571813)
- 2.25** BBC News 24 (7593585)

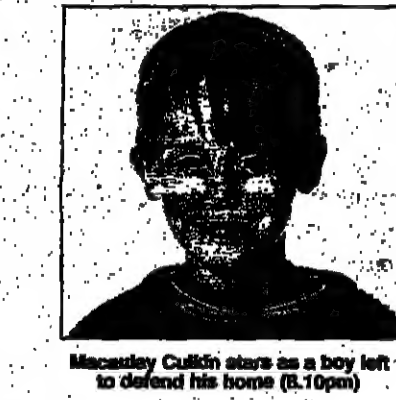
- 6.55am** Women of Paris (1923) Melodrama, starring Charlie Chaplin. Directed by Charlie Chaplin (772287) 7.35 Match of the Day (7598610) 8.55 PM: On the Town (1928/46) 10.30 Perfectly Frank (7555900) 10.35 The West (7578229) 12.00pm Classics: The Ashes (1927) 12.50 Cricket: The Ashes (1927)
- 1.30** The Royal Institution Christmas Lectures: Staying Alive — the Body in Balance (7) (437207)
- 2.20** Perfectly Frank (7) (7555223)
- 2.25** Rex the Runt (7) (7555184)
- 2.35** Rex the Runt (7) (7555184)
- 2.50** Shooting the Century: History of the newsreel, beginning with a look at images of wars, disasters and assassinations (7) (259271)
- 3.30** Perfectly Frank (7) (7575054)
- 3.40** Oscar's Eleven (1998) Six studied comedy, with Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr and Dean Martin as they, out to rob five Las Vegas casinos simultaneously. Directed by Lewis Milestone. (7) (2591237)



Paul Hilton as Nero and Celine Wynn as Poppa (5.45pm)

- 5.45** Poppa New series: The Welsh National Opera's staging of Monteverdi's opera, The Coronation of Poppa, about the machinations of Emperor Nero and his ambitious lover Poppa (1/2) (759810)
- 6.20** The Stepsisters: Horner teaches an adult education course to help to keep a marriage on the rails, but Marge soon finds him out of the house for revealing intimate domestic details (7) (75733)
- 6.45** TOP 2 Pop music: from across the decades, including T-Rex, David Bowie and Suzi Quatro (452591)
- 7.30** The Citizen Complex: How to Live with a Dysfunctional President Mark Lewson examines American attitudes towards the US president, following the Lewinsky affair (7) (759811)
- 8.30** The Travel Show: Does Australia deserve its reputation as the most desirable holiday destination in the world? (7) (759811)
- 9.30** Shapiro and Son Christmas Special: Harold makes plans to spend Christmas in Mexico (7) (752413)
- 9.45** The Christmas Armistice: Armando Jannucci, Peter Baynam and David Schneider provide a satirical review of the year's news (7) (752233)
- 10.15** Moon (1988) Premiere. Oliver Stone's epic-shattering film of the disgraced US President Richard Nixon, starring Anthony Hopkins, Joan Allen and James Woods. Directed by Oliver Stone. (7) (753798)
- 1.20am** Suddenly (1954) Frank Sinatra plays an assassin who takes over a suburban house as a plan to kill the US President. Directed by John Hays. (7) (752225)
- 2.35** Weather (7571813) 2.40 Close

- 5.55am** ITN Morning News (7573349) 6.00 GMTV (757337) 6.25 ITN News Headlines (7) (401123) 6.30 ITN News (7) (502894) 9.35 CITV: House of Toons: Tiny Toon Adventures (167027) 10.00 Brilliant Creatures (7598581)
- 10.25** D2: The Mighty Ducks (1994) Premiere. Emilio Estevez returns as the put-upon ice hockey coach who this time agrees to train a team of the junior Goodwill Games. Directed by Sam Weisman (7590043)
- 12.20pm** ITN News (7) (7543363)
- 12.30** ITN Lunchtime News (7) (63146)
- 1.00** Shortland Street (74184)
- 1.30** Homebound: The Incredible Journey (1989) Three stranded family pets attempt to find their way home. With the voices of Michael J. Fox, Sally Field and Don Ameche. Directed by Duwayne Dunham. (7) (4320)
- 3.00** Cartoon Time (7545861)
- 3.05** ITN News Headlines (7) (7545862)
- 3.10** ITN News (7) (7573894)
- 3.20** Superman (1978) Comic-strip adventure, starring Christopher Reeve, Gene Hackman and Margot Kidder. Directed by Richard Donner. (7) (7573894)
- 5.50** ITN Early Evening News (7) (7598558)
- 6.10** The Making of What Dreams May Come (7) (71181)
- 6.35** WEST: HWT Weather (758813)
- 6.40** WEST: HWT Weather (758813)
- 7.10** Emmeline: Andy confronts Billy over the Post Office tragedy (7) (757455)
- 7.40** Beattie's Hot Shots (7) (759900)



Macaulay Culkin stars as a boy left to defend his home (8.10pm)

- 8.10** Home Alone (1990) Macaulay Culkin is left behind when his family fly off to Paris for Christmas, and when burglars Joe Pesci and Daniel Stern set out to raid the house, the enterprising youngster comes up with an outrageous selection of body traps to keep them at bay. Chris Columbus directs. (7) (7548275)
- 10.00** News at Ten: Weather (7) (75875)
- 10.14** HWT Weather (75810)
- 10.15** What's a Carry On? Celebrity tribute to the much-loved series of films (7) (55312)
- 10.15** WALE: The Shadow Falls (758225)
- 11.15** Carry On: Carry (1969) A motley collection of sketches by to save Carry On from assassination. Directed by Gerald Thomas. (7) (55323)
- 12.05am** WALE: Anatomy of Disaster (1970) (413074)
- 1.00** Football Extra (22295)
- 2.00** Sword of the Valiant (1984) Fantasy adventure set in the Dark Ages. With Sean Connery. Directed by Stephen Weeks. (7) (33363)
- 3.55** Coach (7585276)
- 4.55** ITV Nightvision (7572455)
- 5.00** Hurricanes (4872)
- 5.30** Bugs Bunny (757572)

- As HTV West except:**
- 9.30-9.35am** Central News (7592894)
- 12.20-12.30pm** Central News: Weather (7592894)
- 1.00-1.30** Echo Point (74184)
- 3.10-3.20** Central News: Weather (7592894)
- 6.10** Beattie's Hot Shots (111981)
- 6.35-7.10** Central News: Weather (7592894)
- 7.40-8.10** Heart of the Country (759000)
- 3.55-5.00am** UBC: The Boonies Say — Live from the New South Africa (754913)
- As HTV West except:**
- 9.30am** Westcountry News (7592894)
- 9.35-9.35** Birthday People (7592894)
- 12.15-12.27pm** Westcountry News: Weather (7592894)
- 12.27-12.30** Westcountry News: Weather (7592894)
- 1.00-1.30** The Baldy Man (74184)
- 3.10-3.20** Westcountry News: Weather (7592894)
- 6.10-7.10** Westcountry News (759000)
- 10.14-10.15** Westcountry News (759000)

- As HTV West except:**
- 12.15pm** Anglia Air Watch (7521146)
- 12.20-12.30** Anglia News and Weather (754333)
- 1.00-1.30** Dinosaur (74184)
- 6.10** Beattie's Hot Shots (111981)
- 6.35** Anglia Weather (759542)
- 6.35-7.10** Anglia News (759542)
- 7.40-8.10** The Wansdyke Year (759900)

- Starts: 6.00am** Sesame Street (21900707)
- 7.00** Ovide (7) (4578039) 7.30 The Magic School Bus (7) (4578039) 8.00 The Big Breakfast (2198584) 10.00 The Bigger Breakfast (2198584) 10.30 The Bigger Breakfast (2198584) 11.00 The Bigger Breakfast (2198584) 11.30 The Bigger Breakfast (2198584) 12.00 The Bigger Breakfast (2198584) 12.30 The Bigger Breakfast (2198584) 1.00 The Bigger Breakfast (2198584) 1.30 The Bigger Breakfast (2198584) 2.00 The Bigger Breakfast (2198584) 2.30 The Bigger Breakfast (2198584) 3.00 The Bigger Breakfast (2198584) 3.30 The Bigger Breakfast (2198584) 4.00 The Bigger Breakfast (2198584) 4.30 The Bigger Breakfast (2198584) 5.00 The Bigger Breakfast (2198584) 5.30 The Bigger Breakfast (2198584) 6.00 The Bigger Breakfast (2198584) 6.30 The Bigger Breakfast (2198584) 7.00 The Bigger Breakfast (2198584) 7.30 The Bigger Breakfast (2198584) 8.00 The Bigger Breakfast (2198584) 8.30 The Bigger Breakfast (2198584) 9.00 The Bigger Breakfast (2198584) 9.30 The Bigger Breakfast (2198584) 10.00 The Bigger Breakfast 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